

GENUINE
MEMOIRS

Of the Celebrated

Miss MARIA BROWN.

Exhibiting

The LIFE of a COURTEZAN, in the
most Fashionable SCENES of DISSIPATION.

Published by the Author of a WOMAN of PLEASURE.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

Under how hard a fate are women born?
Prais'd to their ruin, or expos'd to scorn.
If they want beauty, they of love despair,
And are besieg'd like frontier towns, if fair.

Rowe.

LONDON:

Printed for I. ALLCOCK, near St. Paul's.
MDCCLXVI.

GENUINE

THE MUSEUM



In Two Volumes

Vol. II

Under how hard a fate are women born,
Rais'd to their ruin, or expos'd to scorn,
If they want beauty, they are sure to find
And are belied like honest men, when
How

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GENUINE

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CHAP. I.

A kind of introductory chapter to the second volume, containing some good, and many more bad things, which the reader is however desired to peruse with great attention before he goes any farther, for particular reasons therein assigned.

SO much, then, of my life has passed with tolerable decency; I was the toast of the gay and polite world for two years and a half; I have spent my patrimony in playing the coquette, in angling for unguarded hearts, and I have been caught in the very toils I was throwing out for others; I lost my virginity when I thought I had

secured a husband; all this may still appear under the veil of innocence; I have as yet been only the patient, not the agent of vice; my life has hitherto been a tissue rather of follies than crimes, and the consideration of them has thus far occupied me and my readers: so true is it that we pass one half our lives in doing nothing, and the other half in ruminating upon what we have done.

I do not intend, however, that this observation shall be completely fulfilled upon my account. I am going presently to open a new scene, full of business, plot, intrigue, and dissipation. But let me remind the reader, that if he or she should chance to be a staunch puritan, or even a methodist, I would not have him or her so much as think of perusing this second volume; for really, to own the truth, there are some things in it that are not altogether spiritual, though the c—y may perhaps have their share in them; but then it is not the English clergy: they are altogether incapable of acting any part in the following drama.

I shall only premise, that the reader must now suppose me to have attained nearly my twentieth year; that I have in a great measure, by good living and chearful company,

pany, recovered my *embonpoint*; and that if he will refer back to the picture I drew of myself at fifteen, he has nothing more to do than to add the additional dignity which five years confer upon a woman at this particular period of life, to have my portrait now at full length.

A pretty woman in Paris is almost adored, and if she is English, they nearly deify her: though I had not yet received the appellation of *L'Ange Anglaise*, as some one of my contemporaries did, I had been constantly admired when I appeared in the public walks; and, to say the truth, I believe there was no small spice of jealousy in lady Bentley's behaviour towards me, which had more weight in my being discarded her service, than the influence of her French waiting-maid, or even the loss of Romeo; as I have frequently, when with her in public, attracted all the attention, whilst she could secure herself scarce an admirer.

Thus much for my charms, lady Bentley, her jealousy, Romeo, and the like; it is time to return to my worthy benefactress, as I cannot form the least hopes of making a single conquest in my present garb. If dress is not beauty, it is frequently much more than beauty. Charms may

be artificial, but there is no such thing as an artificial good gown ; and the finest face in Christendom without it will not command one gazer ; therefore I will even get myself dressed as fast as possible.

C H A P. II.

An eclaircissement from Maria's landlady ; accepts the proposed terms, and is dressed out ; receives the visit of a *President à mortier* ; his behaviour and generosity. The estimable character of a bawd to society illustrated.

IF the reader should chance to be not quite so great a novice as I was in the female commerce of the world, he or she may, perhaps, ere this, have formed a shrewd conjecture that I had not got into one of the most sober houses in all Paris. In truth my worthy landlady was one of the most celebrated bawds of that great metropolis, and as such thought she did honour to the name of *Laborde*. When she found it had only been a stratagem of the maid to announce the arrival of the baron, in order to put an end to the combat, she returned to me with an air of great satisfaction

tisfaction and seeming complacency. " My
 " dear girl, said she, embracing me, I would
 " not have you entertain a bad opinion of
 " us from the little misunderstanding that
 " you have been a spectator of ; these are
 " nothing more than trifling sallies of viva-
 " city, and which the occurrence of the
 " smallest incident is capable of appeasing.
 " One cannot always govern the first emo-
 " tions of one's passion ; we are all more
 " or less subject to its influence ; tread up-
 " on a worm and it will stir. In other re-
 " spects, if you were acquainted with these
 " ladies, you would be delighted with the
 " sweetness of their temper ; they are the
 " best natured creatures in the world ; their
 " anger is like a straw fire, extinguished
 " as soon as it is lighted ; they forget eve-
 " ry thing that's passed the moment it is
 " over : as for me, God knows, I am quite
 " a stranger to any thing like rancour ; I
 " I have no more gall in me than a dove ;
 " I pity those that would injure me, for I
 " would not hurt a fly. But let's forget all
 " these matters and come to the point.

" Nobody will pretend to contradict,
 " that we make a shocking figure in this
 " world, when we are poor. No money,
 " no Swiss, says the proverb : one might

“ with as much propriety say, No money,
 “ no pleasure, no contentment in this life.
 “ Now, as it is quite natural for every one
 “ to wish to live at ease, which can never
 “ be procured without money, I believe
 “ you must agree with me, that that per-
 “ son must be a great fool who would re-
 “ fuse obtaining a sufficiency, having it in
 “ his power to acquire it; particularly when
 “ the means that are used are no way de-
 “ trimental to society; that would be a
 “ crime indeed, and Lord preserve me from
 “ any such practices: yes, my dear child,
 “ the Lord preserve me from them. My
 “ conscience is as clear as chrystal upon this
 “ score; and I defy the world to reproach
 “ me with having injured any soul breath-
 “ ing. We are not Barbarians that wor-
 “ ship the sun; or disciples of those hea-
 “ thens, who imagine all that belongs to us
 “ dies, when our bodies are put into the
 “ grave: no, my life, we have souls to be
 “ saved; and it should be our chief study
 “ therefore to act uprightly in whatever sta-
 “ tion we are placed in: the calling we fol-
 “ low signifies nothing, provided we act
 “ honestly in it. I repeat it again, that we
 “ must be dupes, indeed, to our folly, or
 “ our vanity, not to avail ourselves of those
 “ resources

“resources with which nature has furnish-
 “ed us; and to whom has nature been
 “more provident in this respect, than to
 “yourself? She has not given you those
 “charms for nothing. She has put it in
 “your own power to be happy, and if you
 “neglect it, you can blame no one but
 “yourself. How many girls, with not half
 “your beauty, have obtained settlements
 “that have made them easy all their lives;
 “not that I envy them their success, if
 “they had more obligations to me than
 “they have; though, to be sure, ingrati-
 “tude will force one to think them not al-
 “together worthy of their good fortune:
 “this alone makes one backward in doing
 “good-natured things.”

“My dear madam, cried I with some
 “eagerness, I hope you will never have any
 “reason to complain of my ingratitude.”

“We can answer for nothing, replied
 “she; they all said the same, and they all
 “forgot what they promised. Grandeur
 “and pomp change people’s nature; they
 “don’t think the same in affluence, as they
 “do in indigence. If you did but know
 “how many opera girls I have trained, and
 “put in the right road, who seem now not
 “to know me, you would be forced to

“ own, that gratitude is a virtue that is ve-
 “ ry rarely practised in the age we live in.
 “ But be this as it may, we have a satisfac-
 “ tion in performing kind offices, and there
 “ is no one more sensible of this pleasure
 “ than myself. A propos, my pretty dear,
 “ has so sweet a girl as you never obliged
 “ any body ?”

“ Indeed, madam, I replied very inno-
 “ cently, it has never been in my power to
 “ confer any great obligations ; but——

“ Pshaw, interrupted madam Laborde,
 “ you don’t understand me ; have you got
 “ your maidenhead yet ?”

At this very extraordinary and unexpec-
 ted question, I turned as red as scarlet,
 without being able to utter a syllable of an-
 swer.

“ I see, said she, it is gone ; but I have
 “ a secret to remedy that ; however, you
 “ know that a merchant cannot deal in a
 “ commodity, without he is acquainted
 “ with its goodness.” In saying this she
 entered into an examination without any
 farther ceremony, whilst I remained so a-
 stonished, that I was unable either to assist
 or prevent her.

The dialogue and behaviour of Mrs.
 Laborde, ignorant as I was, had sufficiently
 ly

I opened my eyes to be convinced of the commerce I was to be concerned in ; and though I had real chastity enough to have detested the thoughts of prostitution, the reflexion of my present indigence, and the improbability of my getting an honest place that would suit me, undermined all the artillery of reason and virtue, which, at first, appeared a very formidable battery against the mercenary forces of this veteran female commander. In a word, the sight of a pink silk sack with silver flowers, and a (Pinchbeck) gold watch, removed even the smallest scruple that I could suggest against the plan of life Mrs. Laborde had so artfully chalked out for me.

In this manner was I dressed the next day, when I was complimented by my companions upon the beauty and elegance of my person ; and our worthy patroness completed these eulogiums, in saying, that I looked so ravishing, so irresistible, that I should have all Paris at my devotion. I must acknowledge I was not quite insensible to this flattery : for, to own the truth, I could not avoid thinking, there was some foundation for what they said, and I considered myself, every time I passed a

B. 5

looking-

looking-glass, with an admiration I was before unacquainted with.

To do justice to madam Laborde, it must be acknowledged she was upon the foremost lists of the priestesses of Cytherea; her foresight extended to every thing. Besides the boarders which she kept at home, not to be unprovided in cases of accident, or when she had a more than usual demand for her merchandize, she had her *corps de reserve* in times of scarcity. She had also a complete magazine of all kinds of female wearing-apparel; containing gowns and sacks of all colours, and suited to all shapes: these she let out at stipulated prices to her boarders and occasional visitors: for instance, I, as one of her new poor proselytes, was to pay at the rate of a *petit ecû* or three livres a day for my wearing-apparel, which she assured me every one gave; this must have been no small addition to her perquisites.

Madam Laborde, not being willing that I should pay my *petit ecû* without reaping any advantage from my dress and appearance, had sent notice to some of her best customers, of the new addition to her seminary: by this wise precaution, there was

no danger of our languishing in expectation.

Mr. Le M—, one of the *Presidents à mortier*, who was always more punctual in keeping these assignations, than giving audience to his clients, arrived just as I had finished dressing. I perceived a man of rather short stature, dressed in black, with one leg, which I afterwards found of wooden manufacture; his neck as stiff as his artificial leg, a head that very rarely moved, lest the quantity of powder which his wig contained might have been in some degree diminished; which, notwithstanding all his care, his clothes bore very evident testimony of: but what he wanted in agility, he made up in fragrance; he was more odoriferous than a perfume-shop.

“Indeed, Laborde,” said he, approaching me. “I do you honour for this acquisition; this is fine, delicious, divine. Really, you have outdone your usual choice. Upon my word, this young lady is enchanting, she is a thousand degrees handsomer than the picture you drew of her, she is an angel; I am serious; why I am fascinated; as I am a magistrate, there is no containing myself; heavens! what

“ what an eye! what a mouth! I must
 “ kiss it, I am in raptures.”

Madam Laborde seeing the negotiation so happily advanced, imagined it was time for her to retire, rightly judging, that the presence of a third person was rather unnecessary to Monsieur le President.

She was no sooner gone, than he begun to make love to me with all the pomp and majesty of his station. I shall draw a veil over the latter part of this scene, lest it should be as disgustful to the reader as it was to me; and shall only add upon this subject, that having entertained the president for about three quarters of an hour, I found myself two Louis d'ores the richer, which, however, he told me, “ not to
 “ mention to Mrs. Laborde, as he should
 “ make her the usual compliment besides,
 “ as well as the present he intended me;
 “ adding, Adieu, my princess, I hope to
 “ have the pleasure of seeing you again very
 “ soon, as I never met with a woman that
 “ gave me so much satisfaction.” He then retired in great haste, and was scarce gone, before I had a visit from madam Laborde.
 “ Well, my dear, said she, is the president
 “ a very good sort of a man? has he given
 “ you any thing?” “ No,” I replied, according

cording to the injunction he laid upon me.
 “ Well, then, said she, here is a Louis d’or,
 “ which he has given me for you ; I hope
 “ this will not be the only mark you will
 “ receive of his generosity, for he seemed
 “ to me quite enchanted with you. But,
 “ my dear girl, you must not expect that
 “ all our customers pay as well : there is
 “ profit and loss in all kinds of trades ; the
 “ good pay for the bad ; no trader always
 “ gains ; you must lump posts and perqui-
 “ sites together. Indeed our trade would
 “ be better, and more inexhaustible than a
 “ Peruvian mine, if we were never disap-
 “ pointed : but patience, the clergy will
 “ meet soon, and then you will see money
 “ fly about here : without any vanity, my
 “ house is in no little repute with them. If I
 “ had only as many thousand livres income
 “ as I have accommodated prelates and
 “ abbés of rank, I should be able to make
 “ as great a figure as madam Pompadour
 “ herself, who is at the head of the profes-
 “ sion. But I have no great reason to com-
 “ plain ; thank heaven, I have enough to
 “ support me without carrying on business
 “ any longer ; but I look upon it as part of
 “ my duty to be useful to society, and I
 “ must amuse myself some-how ; laziness
 “ is

“is the mother of all vice; if every one
 “was employed, they would never think
 “of doing evil.”

Whilst madam Laborde was thus expatiating upon the goodness of her trade, and the rectitude of her conduct, I began to yawn; which she perceiving, left me to go to repose, saying, “To be sure I must have
 “undergone some fatigue, considering I
 “was not yet much used to business.”

C H A P. III.

The chapter of animadversion; being the balance of prostitution in the scale of truth.

BESIDES these comments upon Mrs. Laborde's character and conduct, I received such useful instructions from her, in regard to the vocation I entered upon, that I began to consider whoredom as a complete science. She taught me to secure my health, improve my natural charms, and play them off on every occasion to the most advantage upon the men. These discoveries led me to some reflections upon the conduct of the modest part of the sex, and I concluded from experience, that the woman of pleasure had taught them the
 secret

secret of multiplying their graces, and displaying them by foils and dress to so much advantage: I was convinced they had borrowed our look, our gait, our air, and that every modest woman strove who should most resemble a prostitute. We are upon every occasion the objects of their attention and study. It is from us that they receive every new fashion, and all those little artifices which enchant, and which no one can define. In a word, they have but little reason to upbraid us, for they are only amiable in proportion as they know how to copy us, to tincture their chastity with coquetry, and to ape those they despise. May this digression turn out to the glory of so respectable and numerous a body as the prostitutes of all ranks and denominations, by compelling our envious adversaries to do us that justice we deserve, and repair our honour, which they as well as our admirers have so violently attacked.

The reader will perhaps from hence conclude, that I have already made no small proficiency in my calling; and that I shall very soon, under the auspices of so able and judicious an advocate as madam Laborde, be able to plead the cause of prostitution at any court in Europe. I will not anticipate

pate my merit on this occasion, but leave him to guess, by this sample, of my future abilities.

To resume. Madam Laborde, who had overnight inveighed so bitterly against laziness, was resolved that I should not make many acquaintance with vice, by a familiarity with its common mother; she came into my apartment in the morning between five and six, saying, in a tender voice, “Are
“ you awake, my dear? I did not intend
“ to disturb you so early, but all your com-
“ panions are still engaged with a set of
“ young officers, whose company I would
“ not let you go into, as I knew them to be
“ very bad pay, and I intended you only
“ for my good customers: but there is a
“ friend of mine below, he is a deputy far-
“ mer-general, an old acquaintance of mine;
“ who brings me regularly his two Louis
“ d’ors a week, and I would not disoblige
“ him, if possible; get up my dear, two
“ Louis are no such contemptible present,
“ especially when they are so easily earned.”

I would fain have excused myself from this commission; but she, finding me somewhat backward; told me, “he would not
“ detain me a quarter of an hour, and then
“ I might return to bed, if I would.”

This

This argument prevailed upon me to rise, and having dressed myself, I repaired to the parlour, where I found one of the most disagreeable figures that nature in her anger must have produced: he was between forty and fifty, hunch-backed, and bandy-legged: but though his body was thus deformed, it did not equal the anti-beauty of his face; it appeared to be one general ulcer, without the distinction of any features except his eyes, which were discernible only by their peculiar redness and moisture. This man was I to fondle upon, to make love to, be in raptures with. I started at the sight of such a monster, which I imagined could never be a human being. Madam Laborde perceived my emotion, and brought me a glass of ratafia to recruit my spirits.

Let me draw a veil over his behaviour, which was still more nauseous and disgusting than his person.

When I reflect upon the cruel and extravagant whims which a woman of pleasure is exposed to, I cannot believe, that there is any condition, however mean, however laborious, that is half so miserable: I do not except even that of a bailif, or a courtier. In fact, what can be more insupportable

portable than to be compelled to indulge the caprices of the first man that offers himself; to smile and fawn upon a fool whom we despise in our hearts; to caress an object that creates universal abhorrence: in a word, to be constantly disguised with the mask of artifice and dissimulation; to laugh, sing, drink, and give ourselves up to every kind of riot and debauchery, most frequently against our will, and often with extreme repugnance! Those who figure to themselves our lives as a tissue of pleasure and felicity, are but ill acquainted with our state! Those cringing, despicable slaves, who are continually paying their adulations to the great, whilst they are only upon sufferance, at the price of a thousand shameful meannesses, the most dastardly complaisance, and a perpetual disguise of their sentiments, are not sensible of half the stings and mortifications which are inseparable from our lot. I should not have much difficulty to believe that if misery was any way meritorious in us, and could serve us in lieu of penance in this world, there would be few of us unworthy of a place in martyrology, and some of us might probably be cannized. As our prostitution is founded in base interest, so sovereign

reign contempt, insult, and outrage, are our constant rewards. It is impossible for any one who has not followed the profession, to imagine half the horrors that attend it. I tremble when I reflect upon the hardships which I suffered during my noviciate; and yet how many are there that have been afflicted with still greater! She whom we to-day see triumphing in her gilt chariot, whose luxury and magnificence strike the eyes of the whole town, and who insolently dictates to her keeper when and how he shall think, speak, and eat; even she was but late the refuse of footmen, chairmen, and porters, the heroine of night-cellars, and the concubine of link-boys: have we not seen her traverse the streets, with scarce a petticoat, who can now hardly move, under a load of jewels, to her equipage, and whose sight is offended at the shadow of any below nobility?

Such are the extraordinary transitions in the republic of fornication; and these animadversions seem to make a very proper sequel to the beginning of the chapter, as an effectual counterprize to our vanity and presumption, I shall extend it no farther.

C H A P. IV.

Maria's being disgusted at Mrs. Laborde, quits her house. The disaster that befalls her. The difficulty she finds of obtaining her liberty. The uncommon vocation she makes with a musqueteer, an adventure that had like to have proved fatal to her, is relieved by a canon.

I Continued this profitable trade at Mrs. Laborde's near six months, and might have remained there much longer, had it not been for the furious assault of a dozen musqueteers, whom my landlady neither dared controul or even remonstrate with. It was in vain for me to oppose their violent attempts; force prevailed against all my intreaties, against all my outcries. I told madam Laborde, "I would no longer expose myself to the repetition of such violence," and all her remonstrances were ineffectually used to induce me to alter my resolution. She, at length, consented to our separation, upon condition that I should continue an out-door assistant, whenever I might be called upon for the good of the service. I laid out about five pounds of the money I had saved in some trifling goods

goods, with which I furnished an apartment, in the Rue d'Argenteuil, in order to avoid falling under the lash of the commissaries. But what avails human foresight when our stars combine against us! When I imagined myself in the greatest security, envious calumny disturbed my peaceful solitude, and destroyed all my hopes at the very instant I thought of accomplishing them.

Amongst the number of rakes who paid their respects to me, there was one whom I admitted with great caution and circumspection; he was imprudent enough to devote himself to variety, and he wanted to foster upon me the lineal heir of his unrestrained gratification. This he did in so outrageous a manner as to disturb the tranquillity of the neighbourhood; for being conscious of my innocence, I rebuked him for the insult, which so exasperated him, that he abused me at the window in the most scandalous and opprobrious manner. Some antiquated practitioners who lived facing me, and were jealous of my success, took advantage of this little disturbance, and gave information thereof to the Police, and a night or two after I had a visit paid
me

me by half a dozen carabineers of St. Come, who conducted me to the *Biêtre*.

I was confined here for upwards of ten days, during which time I wrote to madam Laborde, desiring her to use her interest, in order to procure my liberty ; but I received no answer from her, any more than from the rest of those to whom I wrote ; and in all likelihood I should have ended my days here, or been sent to the plantations, if I had not luckily thought of Mr. Le President à mortier, whom I was first introduced to at that lady's. The very next day after I penned my letter, I was informed that I was no longer a prisoner.

Though this gentleman's generosity had restored me to my liberty, I found much difficulty to obtain another lodging, but upon condition of admitting no male visitors : this I was compelled to consent to, not without hopes, however, of eluding my promise ; but my landlady was such an indefatigable Argus, and such an admirer of good hours and regularity, that I was very soon, in despite of my inclination, in the virtuous road to famine.

In this situation I had an offer made me by a painter, to stand for a model at their academy.

academy. I was not arrived at such a pitch of indelicacy as not to be greatly shocked at the thoughts of exposing myself naked to a number of men at once: but that all ruling passion eating surmounted my modesty, and I actually engaged with him according to his proposal. I have had the honour to be an object of study and amusement to all the painters and daubers of Paris. They have exhausted upon me every subject sacred or profane. At one time I represented a penitent Magdalen, at another Pasiphae; one day I was an angel, the next a fury, according to the whim and caprice of the gentlemen of virtù.

The exposition of my charms were procuring me a comfortable subsistence, without running any other risk than that of catching cold, when I was rivalled by a sister expositor, who had no superior merit to me, except that of novelty: they knew me all over by heart, and they thought there no longer required any proof of skill to depict me, as I had by repetition become familiar; whereas mademoiselle Labette, though not near so well-proportioned as myself, had, by the force of variety alone, superceded me in my most advantageous calling. They were however soon convinced

vinced that her vivacity did not only prevent them drawing her precisely in those attitudes which were required, but also that it might be of dangerous consequences to their society, by bringing upon them the resentment of the Police. One day, whilst she was standing for chaste Susannah, in *puris naturalibus*, a procession of the Carmelites passing by, she leaped from the table, and flew to the balcony to become a spectator: the attention of the populace was immediately diverted from the religious procession; and some over-zealous attendants upon the monks gave her a salute of pebbles. Nor did this affair end here, for the master of the house narrowly escaped being sent to the galleys for admitting of such scandalous proceedings.

About this time I had an offer made me by a musketeer, who was really a fine gentleman: He proposed to allow me a hundred livres a month: I readily accepted of this offer, which I thought at this time very advantageous; it had besides an additional recommendation, for I really liked the man; and we accordingly took up our quarters in the Rue de Chaume. Monsieur Dubois, which was my friend's name, was fond of me to admiration, so that our esteem

esteem was mutual: this might be considered as a very extraordinary phænomenon in the course of prostitution, an insurmountable aversion being generally the only recompence of keepers. But with all this regard on my side, I will not pretend to aver that I was over scrupulously constant to him. My hair-dresser was a handsome young fellow, and I found it both my interest and inclination to gratify his desires: however, Monsieur Dubois had no kind of suspicion upon this head, and I might have been said to live easy and comfortable for a woman in my condition, when an unlucky accident once more destroyed my repose. The court being then at Fontainbleau, and Mr. Dubois upon duty, my landlady concluding he would not return but with the king, begged of me to lend her my apartment, for a particular acquaintance, who was come from the country with his wife to pass two or three days in Paris. I did not make the least difficulty to oblige her, and I was to lie with her whilst the visitors staid. The good folks accordingly took possession of my bed the same night.

Mr. Dubois had obtained leave of his

commanding officer to return to Paris upon some pressing business. He had a key of the street-door, wherewith he let himself in when he would. He opened the door very softly, to avoid disturbing the family ; he repaired to my apartment, but what was his astonishment at being asked, *who is there ?* in a masculine voice ! He approached my bed, trembling at once with fear and rage : he feels about the pillows, and finds two heads. It was now that the dæmon jealousy, the spirit of revenge, overpowered his reason. Without farther inquiry, or ceremony, he falls upon the bed-fellows with his cane, and gives them so hearty a bastinado, that the unfortunate man, endeavouring to save his wife from this furious assailant, has one of his arms broke in the fray. It is easy to imagine what a scene must ensue. The house is presently in an uproar ; nay the whole neighbourhood is alarmed at the outcries of the unfortunate pair. Murder is screamed on every side. The guêt came, and Mr. Dubois, too late discovering his mistake, is arrested, and conducted to the Hotel.

As this tumult was occasioned entirely upon my account, I did not think it prudent

dent to wait the issue of the event; but having slipt on a petticoat and a petenlair, I took refuge with a canon of St. Nicholas, who lodged under the same roof. This holy man had looked very kindly on me for some time, and I question whether he was much displeased at the adventure, which furnished him with an opportunity of testifying his regard for me.

I ingratiated myself so well in the canon's favour, that he proposed to share with me the revenue of his living. Though this was no great amount, it would have been very imprudent in me, at this juncture to have refused it: so that the same evening he put on me one of his old sacerdotal dresses, in which it was scarce possible for any body to have known me, and conducted me to an acquaintance of his in the Rue Champflueri.

C H A P. V.

Is introduced to madam Maillot. The accident that happens to the canon. His funeral oration by madam Maillot. The outlines of the character of brother Lamouë.

THE person to whom this pious father introduced me was one madam Maillot, neither more nor less than a dealer in old cloaths. This worthy lady had some time before served the canon in the capacity of house-keeper, and she left him to take for better for worse a water-carrier, who sojourned but a short time after his nuptials, in this transitory sphere. In a word, it was to the care of this venerable trader that I was recommended till such time as she could procure me a convenient lodging.

Madam Maillot was a lady of no small bulk in point of corpulence ; but beneath this surcharge of flesh, there might be discovered the vestiges of a tolerable good face, upon the strength of which she still carried on a small libidinous commerce with

with a brother of the seraphic order of St. Francis.

The intricate mazes which lead to the temple of that blind goddess fortune are inexplorable to humanity; would it be supposed, that my first elevation to that sphere of grandeur I afterwards shone in, is to be attributed to the acquaintance I made with a dealer in old cloaths; yet nothing is more certain. But what is most astonishing in the concatenation of fatality, and which confounds the human understanding, is, that frequently the paths of felicity are pointed out by events in themselves shocking and dreadful. A poor countryman who relies upon the hospitality of his friend, is broke alive whilst he is reposing himself in my chamber: and that I may not be called upon to be any way responsible for this tragical adventure, I escape to my neighbour the canon's, who privately conducts me to madam Maillot's: this is not all. The next day, to complete my mortification, I am informed, that the canon himself is crushed by the falling of a church, and lies buried in the ruins; and by this unexpected disaster, there seems no other resource than for me to rely entirely upon the mercy of my landlady.

In such a situation it is not in the least surprising that tears should express the dictates of my heart, which madam Maillot supposed a tribute I was paying to the dead. For some minutes our streams of sorrow flowed in concert; after which, this good woman being naturally no great friend to lasting affliction, attempted to administer consolation, in which she succeeded better by her ridiculous animadversions, than the most learned doctor could have done with all his morality and logic.

“Come, my dear, said she, it is time
 “that reason should take place, for if we
 “were to cry till doomsday, we could not
 “bring him back to life. God’s will be
 “done! and, after all, it is not us that
 “have killed him. It is his own fault if
 “he is dead; yes, that it is; what the
 “plague had he to do at *Matins*? he who
 “in the course of a whole twelve-month,
 “does not go four times? Was there ever
 “a worse-judged time for devotion? Might
 “not *Matins* have been sung just as well
 “without him? Are not the choirists paid
 “for it Ay, as gossip Guiltote says, Death
 “is a great traitor, as well as a great ty-
 “rant; just when we the least expect him,
 “he comes upon us; who in the name of
 prophecy,

“prophecy, could have told the canon yef-
 “terday, we fhall have a fine goofe to-
 “morrow, but the deuce a bit will you be
 “able to eat of it? He would have fworn
 “it was a lye, and that he could eat his
 “fhare. Yet this is the way we are mif-
 “taken every day. It is a thoufand pities
 “to be fure; for it is as fine a goofe as ever
 “was ferved at the king’s table; it muft be
 “fo; and what fignifies grieving; all the
 “chagrin in the world won’t make us a
 “farthing richer; for, to own the truth,
 “I believe if people were paid for mourn-
 “ing, I fhould be as forrowful as the moft
 “weeping attendant upon a funeral. Be-
 “tween friends there’s no great lofs; ’tis
 “true, he loved his wench, but then he
 “promifed ten times more than he per-
 “formed; and what was worfe the rogue
 “would not let them pafture in another’s
 “ground, though he could not allow them
 “a handful more forage; and then he was
 “tinctured with no fmall flice of gluttony;
 “and, canon-like, he would now and then
 “get mellow; but, what’s worfe than all,
 “he run in debt for it; what fignifies
 “hiding the truth; he is dead and gone,
 “but, to be fure, never did a more worth-
 “lefs fellow, even of a prieft, break bread.”

Madam Maillot convinced me by this learned funeral oration upon her master, that our servants are nothing better than spies and critics of our conduct, who are the more dangerous, in proportion as they are unable to discern our good qualities, though they have always too much malice not to discover our weaknesses and imperfections. She, however, talked to me in a very different manner with regard to brother Lamoûe: he was living, and his church newly rebuilt; so that there was no great likelihood of having an opportunity soon of displaying her talents in a funeral oration upon his account, by reason of a similar catastrophe. It must be acknowledged, that he was of so agreeable a disposition, that he deserved encomiums from all who knew him. He entered just as madam Maillot was trussing the goose for the spit. I perceived a fine young fellow, robust and vigorous, with piercing eyes and an expressive countenance. My worthy landlady immediately acquainted him with the accident that had befallen her and myself, in the person of the defunct canon; but he had already gained information of it; for what indeed else have the clergy in France to do but gather news, which they commu-

communicate by way of barter for more, save souls, and increase bodies; without considering fornication as a vice, or cuckoldom as a crime, but in the pulpit? No one who ever wore the habit was better calculated for this traffic than brother Lamoûe; he was an adept at regulating nice interviews, removing obstacles, eluding the vigilance of the most penetrating Argus, cheating jealous husbands, and relieving timid virgins from the tyrannical empire of relations. In a word, he was the king of Proxenetes's, and the Mercury of the intriguing world.

Such an acquaintance could not fail of being agreeable to me, as madam Maillot told me, that he never undertook any girl's settlement, without being sure to accomplish it. I therefore thought it my interest, to be in every respect condescending to this amiable and useful brother; and as he was not possessed of any sort of bashfulness, which prevented his soon coming to an explanation upon the score of Cyprian devotions, in which his greatest fervency was demonstrated, it cannot be supposed that I kept him long in dalliance. No, to acknowledge the truth, I made him as happy as he desired the very first night I saw him:

nor was madam Maillot any way displeased at my condescension, though she considered brother Lamoûe, not without reason, as part of her property. Her maxim was, “ that gluttony was a deadly sin, and that “ where there was a plenteous board, two “ guests might eat at the same mess, without either being in apprehension of want.”

C H A P. VI.

The good dispositions of brother Lamoûe towards Maria, which are frustrated by the sudden death of the opera-manager. He promises her his further interest, whilst she remains under the direction of madam Maillot. The pious advice of this worthy lady, &c.

BROTHER Lamoûe was so well convinced in the morning of my talents, that he prophetically told I should certainly make my fortune. Continued he, “ I could “ easily recommend you to one, who would “ immediately take you into keeping, but “ he would make no settlement, and I “ think you are deserving of some one better. Your figure and person will not let “ you long remain in a state of obscurity ; “ and,

“ and, every thing considered, the opera
 “ will be the best place for you to expose
 “ your charms to a fair market. I will use
 “ all my interest to get you engaged there :
 “ the only question is, whether you think
 “ yourself better qualified for a singer or a
 “ dancer.”

To this I replied, “ I thought my voice
 “ was not good enough, and perhaps they
 “ might have objections, if they knew I
 “ was a foreigner, in regard to my pronun-
 “ ciation.”

“ As to your voice, he resumed, I think
 “ it very elegant, and I do not imagine it
 “ possible for the nicest ear to determine
 “ that you are not a native ; but I am of
 “ opinion you will captivate the most as a
 “ dancer ; for really, said he, (viewing my
 “ leg) you will make a conquest of the
 “ whole parterre the first night.”

My orthodox friend was as good as his
 word ; he spoke to the director of the
 opera the next day, and gave me a letter
 of recommendation to him ; but he was
 taken ill of a malignant fever, which car-
 ried him off in a few days. Brother La-
 moûe had not yet established his influence
 with the new manager ; but he had not
 the least doubt, but as soon as he became
 acquainted !

acquainted with his merits and pretensions, he should have the same interest at the opera as he had before, and he very sincerely assured me, that as soon as he could rely upon it, I might command it.

In this expectation, though I received scarce any gratifications from brother Lamoûe, I thought it prudent to keep up my correspondence with him; but madam Maillot, who very well knew that an acquaintance of this kind would but little assist good housekeeping, gave me such advice as she thought would be of temporary advantage, till things were brought to a crisis, when I might display my legs to double advantage to the parterre.

From the moment I had made an acquaintance with brother Lamoûe, I conceived the idea of making my fortune, and of leaving my present hostess; but the disappointment I had just met with by the loss of the manager obliged me to defer putting my project in execution, and I therefore was compelled implicitly to follow the directions of madam Maillot. She gave me directions where to walk; in what manner to behave to a cavalier, when he accosted me; how far I should flatter his expectations; and in what manner I should dangle him

him home to her house, where she might make a proper advantage of him.

In the course of a week I had been lucky enough to obtain no less than five different lovers, every one of whom paid me handsomely, and my hostess began to treat me with peculiar civility upon my success. She said, "she found I was a girl of parts, which only wanted a little cultivation ; that her good instructions had not been thrown away upon me, but that she had one bit of advice to give me, which had hitherto escaped her, *to beware of the military* ; for those among them who are rich all keep mistresses ; one half of the poor ones are in keeping themselves, and the other half are not able to keep either mistresses or themselves."

I acquiesced to every thing my judicious and worthy governante asserted, and promised to be guided entirely by her directions : whilst, in my heart, I looked upon her, as a most infernal jade, and had resolved to treat her as such the very first opportunity that offered.

C H A P. VII.

An interview with a gentleman. The uneasiness *Maria* feels in his company, notwithstanding his politeness and regard. Discovers him to be her brother at a very critical time: Mrs. Maillot's logic and counsel, which disgust *Maria*.

WHILST I was still at madam Maillot's, I was one evening overtaken by a gentleman, in the Rue St. Honore, who after much sollicitation, I permitted to conduct me home. It cannot be supposed that my landlady was any of those squeamish women who would object to the admittance of a stranger, especially when his appearance bespoke him the man of opulence: no, she very readily lighted us up stairs, and as readily took his orders for the supper. Whilst this was preparing, he said a thousand tender things to me, "that I was
 " the prettiest woman he had ever seen in
 " France; and that if I had not spoke such
 " good French, he should have been of
 " opinion, that I was an English woman, I
 " so much resembled them in my cleanliness and complexion."

Not-

Notwithstanding all these compliments, and the most engaging behaviour on his side, I was far from being entertaining, or behaving with that complaisance he had reason to expect from me ; I was seized with a kind of melancholy, which, notwithstanding all my efforts to surmount, I could not get the better of ; the application of the champaign was entirely void of effect ; and it was with the greatest reluctance that I indulged him with an embrace, and all his conversation, which tended towards amorous delight, shocked my ears more than it could have done before I had yielded to the proposals of my first vile seducer. He perceived my chagrin, and was very solicitous to know the cause : I evaded giving an explicit answer ; for, indeed, I could not have done it.

At length the hour came for our retiring to rest, and madam Maillot, who had perceived the plenitude of his purse, had taken the greatest pains to set off my apartment to the most advantage. I was already undressed and in bed, when he was taking off his stock and unbuttoning his shirt collar, I perceived a remarkable mole on the right side of his neck ; this immediately

diately brought to my recollection every feature of my brother Charles.

I jumped out of bed, and screaming flew in my present condition to the room of Mrs. Maillot: she was unable to conceive the cause of my consternation, and concluded, that the house was on fire; so that, without enquiring of me what was the matter, she immediately repaired to my chamber, where she found my brother in as much confusion as I had appeared. He asked her whether I was accustomed to fits, relating to her what had happened, and advising her to take care of me, and give me what relief she could, as he imagined I was somewhat disordered in my mind, saying, he had perceived a fixed melancholy in my countenance the whole evening, and that he had concluded I had something which violently affected my spirits.

Madam Maillot hereupon returned to me with an air of greater astonishment than either of us, and would fain have persuaded me to go back to my friend, as she called him, who she added, “ appeared very
“ much like a gentleman, and could not
“ possibly be guilty of using me ill:” but all her persuasives were of no avail, and I could not be prevailed upon to return to my
room,

room, till such time as I found my brother was gone.

The news of his having put on his cloaths and being retired, gave me more real satisfaction, than I was ever sensible of before : it delivered me from a load, that oppressed me beyond description : I immediately breathed another æther ; all my sorrows was expelled ; all my anguish was dissipated. I was now possessed of spirits enough to acquaint Mrs. Maillot with the cause of my surprize and behaviour : but she treated it in a manner very different from what I expected. She attempted to reason casuistically upon the subject, and would fain have persuaded me, “ it would
“ have been no sin to have committed incest, as we cannot suppose the children
“ of Adam could have had any other wives
“ than their daughters and sisters : and advised me, in case he returned, not to be
“ so prudish, as he was flush of money, and
“ appeared very fond of me.”

This reasoning and advice compleated my antipathy to madam Maillot, and I resolved to profit of the first favourable opportunity, to break the connexion between us.

C H A P. VIII.

The transition of Maria's fortune; her grandeur and elegance; leads the fashions of the gay ladies of Paris, who scrupulously imitate her in every part of her dress.

IT was but two days after, that walking in the Thuilleries, I observed an English nobleman keep his eyes constantly upon me, turn as I turn, and move just according to my motions. Madam Maillot, who was with me, told me, I had made a conquest, but hoped I should not find him to be another brother of mine. She would have had more reason to have been of this opinion, if she had understood English, and had heard him declare, "Egad, Tom, she "is the finest creature I ever saw in my "life; I'll have her if she is comeatable, "though she costs me ten thousand "pounds." I did not reveal this discovery to madam Maillot, but failed not being in the Thuilleries the next day, precisely at the same hour. I had taken particular care to dress myself to the greatest advantage, having employed three hours extraordinary

ordinary that morning at my toilette, and exhausted the whole skill of three of the greatest artists in all Paris, in point of hair-dressing. If ever I was able to rivet the fetters which I had already linked, methought I could not fail at present.

I no sooner entered the gardens, than I perceived my admirer at the end of the walk ; his eye caught mine in an instant, and he seemed to gaze with admiration and surprize. I appeared to take no notice of him, when he came up to madam Maillot, and asked, with a faltering voice, if *that lady was married?* to which she answered, *she believed not.* Then madam, continued he, I should take it as a particular favour, if you will inform me where she lives. Madam Maillot was too well versed in her trade, to give a direct answer to this question. “ Sir, said she, though she is not
 “ married at present, she is engaged, and
 “ it would be highly improper for any gentleman to wait upon her.” This information did but double his curiosity, and though we made as many turnings and windings as half a dozen Fiacres could trace, we were, nevertheless, dogged home, by one of the gentlemen’s footmen.

The next day he sent me a letter, where-
 in

in he made me such propofals as it would have been very imprudent for me to have refufed in my prefent fituation, and, as a fample of his generofity he prefented me with a repeating watch by Le Roy, and a valuable ring.

A week's time made a complete tranfition in my affairs. From the fcurvy dwelling of madam Maillot, I was moved to an elegant lodging in a magnificent Hotel in Rue Colbert, at thirty Louis a month; a fervant in livery, a valet de chambre, a maitre d'hotel, two waiting maids, and a brilliant *caroffe coupé* by Martin, formed my retinue.

I might now be faid to lead the fafhion of Paris, at leaft amongft thofe ladies who fhone forth with peculiar fplendour, at the price of their reputation: every opera finger, and every kept woman of any eminence, ftrve to outvie each other, in imitating me: it was enough that mademoifell Brown had appeared in fuch a cap, or fuch a cloak; their milliners were immediately fet to work to produce them the like. Monsieur Crapodine made his fortune by dressing my hair: he curled it in a peculiar form with drop-locks; every one immediately enquired who was my dresser, and he

he had presently more customers than he could wait upon ; so that he fixed his price according to the hour, and would frequently make a dozen Louis of a day, by the folly and caprice of those who imitated my fashions.

When I was arrived at this pitch of distinction, madam Maillot made great interest to come and serve me in quality of house-keeper ; and, to this end, she engaged brother Lamoûe for her ambassador : but his negociation proved fruitless, as I was resolved to have no connexion with a person of her principles and disposition.

C H A P. IX.

A sketch of the artifices used by opera girls to gull the English gentlemen who go to Paris. The conduct of a British merchant's son in that metropolis ; his folly and extravagance.

THUS did I continue moving in the highest sphere of luxury and grandeur in the metropolis of France, by the support and countenance of an English nobleman, whom the French themselves are impelled to acknowledge surpass their own noblesse

noblesse in grandeur, generosity, and magnificence. It is for this reason that an opera girl in France no sooner hears of the arrival of a milord *Anglois*, than she sets all her machines in movement, and plays off all her artillery, as she concludes her fortune compleated, if she has the good luck to make a conquest of him. Whilst I remained in Paris, upon the *bon ton*, there were no less than four opera girls in keeping by English gentlemen; and if one might judge by their extravagance in dress and equipage, they could not be supported for less than a hundred pounds a week, besides presents of jewels and such like superfluous ornaments. Mademoiselle Florezete, who was one of them, and with whom I was acquainted, gave me some account of the artifices she had practised upon her English lover.

“ The first good man, said she, that I
 “ attracted on my coming on the stage was
 “ a rich banker’s son of London; his fa-
 “ ther was a baronet, and he was particu-
 “ larly solicitous of supporting the title and
 “ dignity of his family, by his magnificence
 “ and appearance. No man in Paris had
 “ a finer equipage, or more elegant liveries,
 “ and no man in Paris bid fairer for mak-
 “ ing

“ ing a good keeper. Though he could
 “ not lay claim to any great excellence in
 “ person, as his stature was rather below
 “ the middle size, and his legs were not so
 “ perfectly strait as he could have wished,
 “ he had accomplishments which he piqued
 “ himself upon, and which, indeed, were
 “ somewhat extraordinary. No man kept
 “ better race-horses, was a greater master
 “ of boxing, or was better qualified to carry
 “ off a dozen bottles of champaign, with-
 “ out reeling. This gentleman, who was
 “ the hope and idol of his family, travel-
 “ led, in order to unite with his corporeal
 “ accomplishments such as are acquired by
 “ seeing the world, and an acquaintance
 “ with the beau monde. However, the
 “ only connexion he had at present in Paris
 “ was at his banker’s, upon whom he had
 “ an unlimited letter of credit; and all his
 “ acquaintance was confined to two or
 “ three Chevaliers d’Industrie, pimps and
 “ hangers on, and the charming Thais’s
 “ they procured him.

“ M. L. who was then a pander in or-
 “ dinary to the opera girls, happening to
 “ fall in company with Mr. B. he expressed
 “ his surprize that a gentleman of his fami-
 “ ly and appearance, should have so small

“ a

“ a connexion with the ladies ; and, at the
 “ same time, threw out some hints, that
 “ he could introduce him to one of the
 “ most accomplished women upon the
 “ stage ; that they were the only acknow-
 “ ledged goddesses in Paris, to whom the
 “ gay and polite all paid their adorations.
 “ The bait took : Mr. B. acknowledged
 “ That he had for some time had a very
 “ sincere desire of being engaged with one ;
 “ that it was no other than Mademoiselle
 “ Florezete. The deuce, replied Mr. L.
 “ you have as much genuine taste as if you
 “ had resided here a dozen years. Do you
 “ know, that since the memory of man,
 “ there never appeared a more divine crea-
 “ ture than Florezete upon our stage ! It
 “ is not above a month since she has been
 “ disengaged, and she has already so many
 “ proposals made her, that she does not
 “ know which to accept. She is besieged
 “ on all sides ; and her assailants, it must be
 “ owned, are very furious in their attacks.
 “ She is the very person I should have menti-
 “ oned, and is, indeed, the only one at pre-
 “ sent that would be worthy of your rank
 “ and merit.

“ This was a modest representation of
 “ me, you will allow, for the first overture ;
 “ but

“ but Mr. L. had like to have gone too far
 “ in representing my suitors so numerous,
 “ as Mr. B. was not fond of much trouble,
 “ and was not knight-errant sufficient to
 “ desire encountring more difficulties than
 “ he could surmount with his money ; so
 “ that he was upon the point of giving up
 “ all hopes of me, when Mr. L. resumed
 “ his panegyrical harangue in the following
 “ manner.

“ — But sir, continued he, she has so
 “ many obligations to me, and I have so
 “ much your interest at heart, that me-
 “ thinks I could soon make an impression
 “ on her in your favour ; especially as she
 “ is in raptures with a foreigner, and as
 “ there is never a one at present upon her
 “ list of suitors : she is the least self-interest-
 “ woman I ever knew, and would make
 “ an incomparable mistress to a man who
 “ would pay her proper respect. You can-
 “ not conceive how great her attachement
 “ was to her last lover : it must be acknow-
 “ ledged he was very worthy of it, and that
 “ no man ever behaved to a woman in a
 “ more noble or a more generous manner.
 “ It was in vain for her to hide her wants
 “ from him ; for you know a pretty woman
 “ has always some of one sort or other : he
 Vol. II. D “ had

“ had a most surprizing penetration for dis-
 “ covering them, and they seemed to strug-
 “ gle who should act the most disinterested
 “ part, in a manner as extraordinary as it
 “ was agreeable.

“ Mr. B. was captivated at these great
 “ elogiums, which Mr. L. lavished upon
 “ me; he could no longer resist, strongly
 “ importuning him to furnish him with an
 “ opportunity of conversing with me. This
 “ Mr. L. told him would be very difficult
 “ to effect, till such time as he paved the
 “ way for him, by representing him as the
 “ most amiable as well as generous cha-
 “ racter in the world, it being an invariable
 “ rule with me, to admit no visitors, but
 “ such who bore the best of reputations,
 “ and were very strongly recommended.

“ I was immediately informed of all that
 “ had passed, and resolved with Mr. L's
 “ advice not to admit him to a visit, till
 “ such time as I had more strongly excited
 “ his passion by my appearance in a new
 “ ballet, which was at present in rehearsal,
 “ and which was to be represented in a
 “ few days. Mr. L. therefore informed
 “ him, that I was at present so greatly taken
 “ up with learning this new dance, that I
 “ had not a moment to myself; but that
 “ he

“ he had no reason to doubt, but by the favourable representation he had given of him, and the attention with which I had listened, he would be able to introduce him to me, as soon as my present hurry was over.

“ He failed not to be present at the rehearsal of the new opera, and he took an opportunity of paying his obeissance, by respectfully kissing my hand behind the scenes. I was very far from being displeased at seeing him at this rehearsal: for it is upon these occasions that the opera ladies display their greatest magnificence, by endeavouring to out rival each other in dress and appearance. This was his first advance, and, no doubt, he imagined, he had performed wonders in having ravished my hand, and obtained from me a smile of approbation.

C H A P. IX.

Sequel of the adventure between Mademoiselle Florezete and Mr. Bennet.

“ **T**HE Palais-Royal seems to be a territory, whose property is entirely invested in we ladies of the opera, and which we seem to have acquired by as ancient prescription as the

“ foundation of the theatre itself. It is in
 “ this garden of freedom, that we are au-
 “ thorized to take upon ourselves the airs
 “ of women of consequence, and to brave
 “ with impunity the eye of the spectator by
 “ our magnificent dress and our brilliant
 “ appearance. There it was that Mr. Ben-
 “ net came to meet me the next day, and
 “ say all the tender things he could suggest,
 “ whilst I, with an air of triumph and dis-
 “ dain, seemed to give him not the least
 “ attention, being completely employed in
 “ ogling every petit maitre that passed,
 “ whose obeissances were as profound as
 “ they were continual.

“ Notwithstanding the little encourage-
 “ ment I gave my English lover, he had for-
 “ titude enough to follow me out of the
 “ gardens, and to entreat me to partake
 “ of his remise, as Monsieur L. was to eat
 “ soup with him that day, and as my com-
 “ pany would be particularly agreeable. I
 “ framed a hundred imaginary excuses to
 “ avoid going ; but, at length, I let myself
 “ be prevailed upon.

“ We found Mr. L. at Mr. Bennet's,
 “ who congratulated his friend upon his e-
 “ loquence and good fortune, in having
 “ prevailed upon me to be one of his guests.

“ After

“ After dinner Monsieur L. took an oppor-
 “ tunity of retiring, that Mr. Bennet might
 “ profit of it in form. I had got my cue,
 “ and I knew I might have my price, if I
 “ did but stand out. He first began by of-
 “ fering me twenty Louis a week and my
 “ table. I told him that would not pay
 “ for shoes and stockings; by degrees, he
 “ gradually mounted to sixty Louis a week,
 “ where I found he stuck; for notwith-
 “ standing I still turned up my nose at the
 “ proposal, I discovered he was at present
 “ resolutely bent upon giving no more; so
 “ that I thought it was prudent to accept
 “ of this small salary regularly, in hopes that
 “ I might make it still worth my while by
 “ perquisites; and now that he engaged the
 “ premises, he was for entering upon them
 “ that very night; but I reminded him, that
 “ he had not given earnest yet; upon which
 “ he threw his purse into my lap, which
 “ contained upwards of seventy Louis.

“ The first week I squeezed from him,
 “ by drinking two toasts in English, fifty
 “ Louis, and put him into so good a hu-
 “ mour by my condescension, that he went
 “ with me the next day to buy a new neg-
 “ ligee, having previously praised his taste
 “ and judgment in point of dress. I took

“ care to leave my purse at home, as the
 “ mercer’s bill came to six hundred and
 “ fifty livres for thirty yards of rich gold
 “ and silver brocaded, and I borrowed as
 “ much of him to pay it.

“ But this is nothing in comparison of
 “ the frequent expences, which I found
 “ opportunities to plunge him into. I had
 “ nothing to do but mention some remar-
 “ kable acts of generosity of a foreigner, to
 “ excite his jealousy and emulation to out-
 “ vie him, as he would not let it be said,
 “ that any man of whatever nation could
 “ surpass an Englishman in magnificence.
 “ Is it possible that there can be any man
 “ so stupid, as to contest the merit of dissi-
 “ pating his fortune with a wh—re, for the
 “ honour of his country ?

“ One morning he waited upon me by
 “ appointment to breakfast, when I had
 “ ordered a jeweller of my acquaintance to
 “ call as if by accident. Norman was at
 “ the door just as the chocolate was rea-
 “ dy ; the servant told me he had some-
 “ thing particular to say to me ; but I seem-
 “ ed much dissatisfied at being disturbed :
 “ however, said I, with your leave Mr.
 “ Bennet, let’s know what this man wants.
 “ Norman was accordingly admitted.”

“ Good

“ Good morrow, monsieur Norman, what
 “ has brought you here so early in this part
 “ of the town ? how goes trade ? I warrant
 “ now, you’ve got something new to shew
 “ me.” Madam, he answered, that was
 “ just the cause of my taking the liberty to
 “ wait upon you ; I thought that being in
 “ your neighbourhood, you would not be
 “ displeased at my shewing you a curious
 “ cross which I am going to carry to a fi-
 “ nancier’s lady in the place des Victoires.
 “ I can venture to say, without vanity, that
 “ there never was a more masterly piece of
 “ work.” “ Really, monsieur Norman,
 “ you are a very good sort of a man not to
 “ forget your friends ; I am much obliged
 “ to you for this mark of your attention :
 “ Pray let’s see it, Mr. Norman, since
 “ you’re so polite. On my word, Mr. Ben-
 “ net, it is vastly beautiful ; the mounting
 “ is amazingly fine ; the stones are of a ve-
 “ ry beautiful water, and most masterly
 “ cut ! Do you not think it casts a very
 “ fine lustre ? These insolent financiers
 “ wives wear every thing that is in the
 “ highest taste. I cannot say, but what it
 “ mortifies me a little that such a pretty
 “ thing should be worn by a woman of her
 “ cast. Pray, Mr. Norman, what may the

“ price be ? “ Madam, he answered, eight
 “ thousand livres, is the lowest at a word.”
 “ Well if I were in cash, I certainly would
 “ have it ; but ” — “ Oh ! pray madam, do
 “ not mention that, it makes no manner of
 “ difference.” “ By no means, monsieur Nor-
 “ man, I cannot think of running in debt.
 “ Mr. Bennet, with whom I had a little
 “ sham quarrel the day before, seemed
 “ highly pleased at so favourable an oppor-
 “ tunity of recovering my good graces.
 “ He took up the cross in paying eighty
 “ Louis ready money, which was all he had
 “ about him, and giving a draught payable
 “ at sight, for the remainder.

“ In a word, this ridiculous vanity of Mr.
 “ Bennet, was worth to me in the course
 “ of four months, upwards of seven thou-
 “ sand pounds, sterling ; and if his father
 “ had not unluckily died at the end of that
 “ period, which occasioned his precipitate
 “ journey to England, I do not doubt, that
 “ by this time I should have transferred
 “ two thirds, if not his whole fortune, in-
 “ to my coffers.”

Such then was the account Mademoiselle
 Florezete gave me of the generosity and
 stupidity of her English lover, which was
 an excellent lesson for me, and I failed not

to improve by her instructions. It is true, my lord could not afford to squander away such large sums, as it seemed Mr. Bennet had at command; but then a hint was sufficient, and whatever he gave, was with so free a will and so much good nature, that it added to the value of the donation. This elegant generosity on the side of my benefactor somewhat compressed my demands, and I had a kind of remorse at fleecing a man who took so much pains to make himself amiable.

C H A P. X.

The proposal his lordship makes. Sets out from Paris with him: their arrival in England. Meets with a female relation: her extraordinary politeness properly required.

A SHORT time after this, my lord's domestic affairs demanded his presence in England; and though he still continued expressing upon every occasion the greatest regard and affection for me, he left it to my choice, either to accompany him, or remain at Paris; saying, that as I had been so long out of my native country, and as I might have formed connexions and acquaintance in Paris that might be agree-

able, if the journey to England was not my choice, he would continue remitting me such sums as should be necessary for supporting me. The offer was too generous for me to accept of it, as I should thereby have been deprived of the pleasure of the company of a man whom I greatly esteemed; and as I did not doubt but when I made as elegant an appearance in London as I had done in Paris, I should neither want for acquaintances nor even relations, who would claim a kindred to grandeur and magnificence, under the badge of prostitution.

My lord seemed highly pleased with the preference I gave of accompanying him rather than sojourn behind him in Paris; and upon our departure from that capital, he laid out near seven thousand Livres upon me in cloaths and trinkets. We set out on Shrove-Tuesday for Calais, where we arrived the next night, and being embarked on board the Packet, I had, in a few hours, the pleasure of beholding once more my native shore.

We landed at Dover, without having met with any other inconvenience in our passage than being a little sea-sick, which did not however prevent my making a ve-
ry

ry hearty breakfast. The manners and appearance of my countrymen seemed quite strange to me, after six years absence : so prevalent is custom and use, however ridiculous and unnatural. It was with some difficulty I expressed myself in my mother tongue, and it was with still greater, that I could be prevailed upon to taste British burgundy, so much had my taste been vitiated by exotic beverage.

But these scruples and difficulties, I in a great measure surmounted, the nearer I approached the capital, where his lordship's servants were ready for his reception ; and where a genteel lodging had been prepared for me in Bond-street, as his lordship could not introduce me at his own house, a superannuated lady old enough to be his mother, and whose only charms, upon her marriage, consisted in eighty thousand pounds, there calling him husband.

My first concern after my fatigue was over centered in an enquiry after such relations as I had left in England ; but, after all my researches, I could obtain no account of any, except my worthy aunt, who had fairly outlived all her friends, and was now reduced to the necessity of toad-eating for

a livelihood amongst the great and charitable.

It may be with truth averred, that my character was certainly at the time she was so much shocked at it, much more unexceptionable than at present, as I had been deluded by my betrayer, and could be accused of no other crime than having had too much confidence in man: yet now that she must have imagined I had frequently been compelled to gratify the most carnal of men's appetites, and that I actually lived in a state of prostitute-adultery, she was blind to all my vices, and reconciled to all my guilt. My grandeur and magnificence had changed the very nature of vice, and rendered criminalty innocent.

She fawned upon me, praised my taste; and adulated my beauty: I was the sweetest creature she had ever set her eyes on; I had more sense than all the rest of the sex put together: in a word, had I believed her, I was the phoenix of my kind. Her distress I pitied, but her dissimulation I despised; I could easily prevail upon myself to forgive her former perfidy to me, and which had in a great measure been the cause of all my misfortunes; but I could never be reconciled to her sycophantic flattery. I
plainly

plainly told her, that “ all her pretended
 “ praise was nothing more than deceit; that
 “ if I were possessed of any of those charms
 “ and recommendations which she so la-
 “ vishly flattered me upon, they must cer-
 “ tainly have been in much higher perfec-
 “ tion before I set out for France with lady
 “ Bentley, and before I had been compel-
 “ led to follow a dissolute course of life,
 “ which I looked upon with horror.”

Notwithstanding all her studied flattery
 and bespattered praise, she had not effron-
 tery enough to withstand this reply; but
 finding I was not so devoid of sense as to
 be blind to her dissimulation, she had no
 other resource, but to express her surprize
 at what I acquainted her with, saying she
 was greatly obliged to me for giving her
 this information, “ imagining I was mar-
 “ ried to a gentleman of fortune, but that
 “ if she had continued her visits to a per-
 “ son in the situation she found I was in,
 “ she would have lost her own reputation
 “ with people of the first fashion whom
 “ she had the honour of visiting.”

In saying this she retired, and left me to
 ruminate upon an antiquated female's hy-
 pocrify, which, of all others, is certainly the
 most unlimited and the most nauseating.

C H A P. XI.

The death of his Lordship, which leaves Maria in very disagreeable circumstances; the acquaintance she makes with Miss P; her advice, which Maria follows. The outlines of Miss P's character; a discovery made by her keeper and its issue.

MY elegant and luxurious life was of no great duration: nor had I the opportunity, or at least not the inclination, of amassing any considerable sum during its continuance, to provide for an accident which soon took place. His lordship was taken ill of a fever: during his illness I could gain no access to him, or by any other means recal to his memory the promise he had often made me, of leaving me a handsome provision by his will. His lady and those about him took care to erase from his thoughts every object that had been desirable to him as a mistress, and, upon his demise, I found myself every way unprovided to support the elegant and sumptuous appearance I had for some time made. I began early to retrench my expences and consider frugality as very essential to be pursued;

pursued; when falling in company with a lady who had been looked upon as the general toast of the gay and polite, she easily prevailed upon me to dismiss my oeconomical notions, and raise contributions on the male part of the creation without limitation.

This was no other than the celebrated Miss P. who had for some time eclipsed the Murrays and Fishers amongst the votaries of Venus, and who having tyrannized for two years over the men, was now reduced to the necessity of gratifying their carnal desires, when and where-ever they chose to send for her. Miss P. was genteel in her person, lively, and full of vivacity in her conversation; she had been debauched by an officer who was quartered at her father's house at Brentford, where he kept an inn: he brought her up to town, and she lived with him as his convenient, as long as he was able to keep out of the Marshalsea prison; but his taylor having thrown him in there for a bill of twenty-five pounds, Miss P. was not so fondly attached to the captain, as to accompany him in his captivity. As she was a new face upon the town, she soon had many admirers, and almost as many

many proposals ; but as she had learnt some experience, and was resolved not

“ To be fooled by man——a second time,”

She prudently reserved her future favours for a commodore, who was just returned from the West-Indies, and who was as lavish of oaths as he was of Spanish dollars. He doated upon Miss P. and gave her a carte blanche for whatever she chose, in point of dress and expence. She was none of those conscientious females, who think they are by gratitude and honour bound to be faithful to their benefactors. The commodore was rich, but he was very far from being handsome, and his want of youth was no great recommendation to him. Though her intimacy with her hair-dresser was pretty notorious in the house where she lodged, the son of Neptune had no suspicions upon that score, as she always met him with an air of great kindness, and gave him all the satisfaction he could require. Unluckily Monsieur Fricoté her tonser was laid up with a disorder which she had very fortunately escaped contracting by the operations he performed, which induced her to think of some other person properly qualified

lified to supply his place. A young lawyer's clerk, who lived in the two pair of stairs, had looked very smirking upon her for some time, and in the absence of Mr. Fricoté he appeared to her as no contemptible acquaintance. She accordingly gave him an invitation to tea, and the youth was not so ignorant in the language of the eyes as not to understand the question which Miss P. put to him, in that visual tongue; he answered them in the same manner, and a dialouge ensued, without a word being spoke. We cannot suppose that this conference lasted long, before they came to more substantial proofs of their affection; nor can we imagine that these proofs were not frequently repeated.

The commodore had never yet had any suspicion of his fellow lodger, when he unexpectedly came one morning when Miss P. and the young lawyer were at breakfast in his apartment. Miss P. immediately descends upon hearing his voice, and he would not have surmised that she had been in her gallant's room, if unfortunately the commodore had not wanted his breakfast. The tea things cannot be produced without her going up stairs, which creates a suspicion in her keeper, and he follows her
up ;.

up; when finding things in the situation she had left them, he insults the Quill-driver, who retorts the abuse with threatening to turn him down stairs, which irritates the naval gentleman to that degree, that he goes to a neighbouring justice, and takes a warrant against him.

The parties now are summoned, when the commodore endeavouring to charge the lawyer with a robbery, by having his tea-spoons and china in his room, it is proved, by Miss P's own confession, that she carried them up; and the commodore has no other satisfaction for his expence and exposition, than the revenge he takes of turning off miss P.

C H A P. XII.

A short comment upon the usual adventures of girls of the town. The reader is introduced into a polite circle. The outlines of the character of Mrs. W. Maria is introduced into her seminary; some account of two veteran lechers, and an analysis of the Sapphic passion.

IT may be thought that there can be nothing very entertaining or amusing,
much

much less novel, in the adventures of a girl of the town in London, as the histories of so many have already been published, and as they are little more than copies one from the other ; the old round of Bob Derry's, Weatherby's, the Shakespeare's-head, the Jelly-shops, Maulby's and Goulds, are now to be sure, think some, to come into play. We are to be informed how a citizen got drunk and was beat at one, was fleeced at another, and p—'d at another ; how Lucy C. drank burnt champaign, and danced till five in the morning, if she don't fall asleep before she gets home. All this dull beaten track I shall most cautiously avoid, as I am convinced that such trite narrations must be unentertaining, if not nauseating : I shall take the reader into politer scenes of action, where his curiosity, added to five guineas, could not gain him admittance.

A certain venerable lady who lives in the purlieu of St. James's, and provides the most elegant entertainment for all kinds of guests, young, old, vigorous, and debilitated, has for many years had the constitutions and purses of the nobility and gentry of this metropolis at heart, and being a great connoisseur in point of delicacies, every one endued with a nice appetite may
be

be accommodated here with *les morceaux les plus friads*. She regales the army, the navy, the gentlemen of the long robe, &c. &c. agreeable to their different tastes, and entirely to their satisfaction. She has also seasonable repasts, suited to spring, summer, autumn, and winter, and excels particularly in entertaining the East and West-India gentlemen, and warm constitutions, *à la fraîche*.

Miss P. was at this time upon Mrs. W's list, who having this evening a great demand for fresh hands, she was sent for in a vast hurry, and desired to bring any one of her acquaintance who might be depended upon; I was accordingly invited, and accompanied her in a coach to the place of rendezvous.

We were introduced into the parlour, and a short time after were waited upon by Mrs. W. who acquainted us, "She had
 " two very good customers above stairs,
 " but that they were somewhat whimsical
 " in their way; that we must not, however,
 " contradict them in any thing, as they
 " would do us no harm, but would pay us
 " very handsomely, if we pleased them."
 We then walked up stairs, where I was greatly surprized to meet with an old gentleman

tleman whom I had known at Paris, when he was upon his way to Montpellier, for the recovery of his health; he recollected me, and we entered into a pretty long conference together, wherein he acquainted me how great a martyr he had been to the sex, and that he had narrowly escaped with his life; but, continued he, “there is no
 “resisting the bewitching devils, and if I
 “am no longer capable of enjoying them
 “myself, it still gives me great delight to
 “see them concupiscentially happy.” I was an utter novice to what he meant; but miss P. had by this time learnt of the old gentleman, with whom she had been in the mean time conversing, and she whispered to me the plan of bliss which these extraordinary lechers had chalked out to themselves, and which they stiled the indulgence of the Sapphic passion.

Miss P. made love to me with all the fervour of a young fellow that was in the extasies of enjoyment, and forced from me that acknowledgment which nature meant to be manifested upon a very different occasion.

As soon as they perceived that my female lover had completely effected her design; they appeared in the most extravagant

gant raptures, and which they expressed by the most uncommon howlings, as if they had been of the canine race. They then flew at us, and kissed those parts which had afforded them such ocular delight.

I must acknowledge I did not rightly understand the nature of their enjoyment; but methought ten guineas were easily earned, without any corporeal risk, and without being surfeited with the nauseating embraces of doating impotence.

C H A P. XIII.

The accident which befalls Maria in the course of her amorous commerce; the reason of it's giving her particular uneasiness. An essay towards cuckoldom properly recompensed; and an uncommon soliloquy of a bard.

THESE aged votaries of Venus were constant customers of Mrs. W. once a week, and we were sent for to divert them in this extraordinary way: we had therefore little occasion to seek out for other gallants; nor indeed did we, except such as we were rather the supporters of than supported by: but this golden shower of folly did

did not long continue; for one of our benefactors being carried off in a fit of the gout, we were obliged to have recourse to a more natural, though a more dangerous, way of supplying our wants.

I had not been upon Mrs. W's. list above a fortnight in the usual walk, ere I had such convincing proofs that I had much occasion for alterative medicines, that I thought it prudent to refrain from attending there, lest I should endanger the reputation of her house.

What gave me the most sensible mortification upon this occasion, was that I had communicated my disorder to a young fellow, that lodged in the same house where I did, and whom I had taken upon miss P's recommendation as a very proper person to solace me after the ineffectual attempts of indulgence, which miss P. had made in the Sapphic stile.

This person's name was Williams, and though but twenty years of age, he lived by writing for the press, and was retained in fee at a moderate price by the fabricating booksellers of London and Westminster. Hence it may be concluded that his finances were not in the most flourishing state, or that the little douceurs I threw in
to

to make life more comfortable were at all misapplied. Upon discovering the accident which had befall us, he said, he was no longer a stranger to these kinds of calamities, as ever since he had commenced an author and a beau, he had met with nothing but misfortunes. It was but a week before you came to lodge here, continued he, that I must, forsooth, be attempting to cuckold a cit, who returned home, unexpectedly, just as I was upon the point of getting to-bed with his wife. In this situation there was no other resource than the window; the maid promised to throw out my clothes as soon as an opportunity offered; but I remained covered with nothing but expectation, above an hour and a half: at length, she threw out my coat and waistcoat, but told me, she could not get my breeches, which I had hung at the bed's-head, without risking a discovery. There were five guineas in them, which was all the money I had in the world, and which arose from my copy of annotations. Though I could have found in my heart sorely to have wept, and remained till morning, in hopes of getting my breeches, yet the cold was so intense, that I could

not

“ not continue any longer in that condition
 “ in the street ; the watchman coming up,
 “ he took me to the watch-house, and I ex-
 “ changed my waistcoat for a great coat
 “ to hide the nakedness of the lower part
 “ of my body, as it was now day-light, and
 “ there was no possibility of returning
 “ home without some such covering.”

He concluded this story with a soliloquy,
 which he made upon the lamentable state
 of a poor bachelor. “ If I would cuckold
 “ a don, I must jump out of a window, at
 “ the risk of my neck, and with the loss of
 “ my breeches and my fortune ; if I de-
 “ bauch a girl, and get her with child, I
 “ must pay ten pounds to the parish, which
 “ perhaps are ten times more than I have
 “ in the world, ergo I must go to jail ; and
 “ if I even lie with you, the consequence
 “ you see, is a c—p. What course then is
 “ a young fellow to take? if he marries,
 “ he is surely ruined as well as the girl he
 “ marries, and besides intails inevitable mi-
 “ sery upon all his progeny. The whole
 “ thing then is reduced to this curious di-
 “ lemma : if a man lives single his consti-
 “ tution is destroyed, and his health and
 “ purse are made the prey of quacks and
 Vol. II. E “ empirics,

“ empirics, or perhaps imprisoned for life
 “ for a suit of crim-con.

“ If he marries a woman without a for-
 “ tune, he is ruined beyond the power of
 “ redemption, perhaps to the third and
 “ fourth generation: what then, miss
 “ Brown, can a poor amorous author do?”
 I must acknowledge I was at a loss what
 advice to give my friend; had I told him
 he should have endeavoured to surmount
 all such passions, till such time as he could
 meet with a woman who was capable of
 making him happy in the married state,
 he might have retorted the argument upon
 me with great justice and propriety; I
 therefore evaded entering into any debate
 upon the subject, and advised him “ to
 “ make the best of a bad bargain, and find
 “ out some skilful surgeon or apothecary,
 “ who might restore us to our former
 “ health.”

C H A P. XIV.

A learned dissertation upon the venereal disorder by a high German doctor of great repute and abilities ; is interrupted at Montpelier by Mr. Williams, who makes a discovery no way to the doctor's advantage : a very curious apology for the loss of his nose, which will be of inestimable advantage to all mankind.

MR. Williams approved of my advice, saying there was more merit in an hour's practice than a twelvemonth's theory, as well in life as in morality ; and he accordingly rose the next morning, and set out before breakfast in pursuit of a certain foreign doctor, of whom he had lately heard very great encomiums : after near two hours search, he, at length, found him in one of the new courts near Covent-Garden.

Upon being introduced to this son of Hippocrates, Mr. Williams was interrogated concerning the species of his disorder, which he acquainted him was neither more or less than a virulent gonorrhœa. The doctor immediately entered into a

learned dissertation upon the nature of the
malady, its origin and progress, its primary
seat and circulation. “ All this is very true,
“ fir, said Mr. Williams ; but had we not
“ better come to the business in hand.”
“ All in good time, replied this successor to
“ Galen, 'tis proper to attend a little to the
“ subject under consideration, somewhat in
“ the abstract. Now, fir, says he, though
“ this disorder is called the French disorder
“ at London, and the Neapolitan disorder
“ at Paris, it is evident to a demonstration,
“ that it is of American origin, and that
“ Columbus was the first importer of it into
“ Europe. Amongst the Americans, they
“ treat it in a very different manner from
“ what we do in Europe, and for a very
“ evident reason : first, fir, we must consi-
“ der that many of the West-Indian islands
“ are very near the equinoctial line, and
“ consequently the influence of the sun
“ must be much greater there than in any
“ part of Europe. Secondly, fir, they are
“ unacquainted with the property and vir-
“ tue of many drugs and medicines which
“ none can pretend to lay any claim to the
“ knowledge of, without having studied at
“ Montpelier ; but, on the other hand, fir,
“ they have some herbs which grow spon-
“ taneously,

“ taneously, which are of great efficacy in
 “ palliating, but not in radically curing this
 “ disorder. All these reasons considered,
 “ fir, it is not at all surprizing, that we
 “ should treat this disorder in a very dif-
 “ ferent manner here to what they do in
 “ its maternal country ; and by the same
 “ parity of reasoning, fir, we must treat it
 “ in various manners, according to the cli-
 “ mates we inhabit even in Europe ; now,
 “ fir, at Montpelier” — Mr. Williams
 having no more patience, told him he could
 stay no longer, if he did not chuse to pre-
 scribe him something proper, without exa-
 mining the subject matter in the abstract,
 as he was pleased to call it.

Upon this the doctor begged his pardon,
 and desired leave to make an inspection of
 the parts afflicted : “ Indeed ! he cries, not
 “ the first, no, nor the second stage ; here
 “ is something, fir, that will require a small
 “ incision ?” Upon this Mr. Williams stared
 at him for the first time, and espying he
 had no nose, he began to withdraw from
 any farther examination, as he immediately
 was struck with an opinion, that he could
 have no great skill in venereal cases, who
 had not the talent to save his own nose.

The doctor perceived the cause of his surprize and behaviour, and without having the question put to him concerning the loss of that valuable and ornamental feature, he told Mr. Williams that he was born so, owing to some infection that had been communicated between his father and mother in the very act of generation ; and that this very deficiency had been the cause of his applying himself to the study of physic, as he was resolved to eradicate this fatal disorder from the face of the earth ; that with this design he had travelled through almost all parts of Europe, and that this hydra-headed contagion always flew before him like smoke before the wind ; and that as soon as he had completely vanquished it in England, which he hoped to effect in a very few months, he should set out for America, where he intended to destroy it root and branch.

Mr. Williams could not refrain testifying the grateful sense he had entertained for the doctor's regard towards him and the rest of his countrymen, but, at the same time, made a very low congee, and left the physician to pursue his elaborate design, resolving to be the last patient that should come under his care.

When

When the author returned, and gave an account of his adventure with the learned doctor, I could not refrain from laughing, though it was upon so melancholy a subject; as he heightened the detail by a ludicrous description of the doctor's dress and appearance, which must have been very ridiculous, considering his physiognomy in a voluminous three tailed perriwig, and a short flash pocket olive-colour frock, with a broad gold lace.

C H A P. XV.

An account of an uncommon kind of lover, and his behaviour upon a visit to Maria; a few observations which naturally arise out of the subject; is interrupted by a diabolical uproar over head, when her intercession proves effectual.

WE both soon got well, without applying farther to the high-German doctor, the aid of an incision, or even the loss of a nose. I returned to my former vocations, and Mr. Williams scribbled ænigmas, acrostics, and rebus's, in hopes of restoring the five guineas which he lost

in daring to attempt the virtue of a citizen's wife.

An acquaintance which about this time I made at Mrs. W's. used frequently to visit me once a week at my own lodging, and as his behaviour was somewhat singular and extraordinary, I shall give a little detail of it. Upon these occasions, he usually waited upon me on a Saturday-morning in a dishabille : as soon as he came into my apartment, I ordered the carpet to be taken up, placed myself in the settee at the corner of the room, and ordered pails, brushes, mops and sope, when he pulled off his coat, tucked up his shirt sleeves, tied on one of the maid's coarse aprons, and went regularly to work, with all the skill of the most professed house-maid. He usually scoured the room out perfectly clean, in about three quarters of an hour, whilst I continued in a careless easy attitude reclining on the settee. After he had performed this operation, and obtained my approbation, he then put on his clothes, having previously replaced the carpet, chairs, tables, &c. in their primitive state, and approaching me with great humility, very politely kissed my hand, at the same time slipping a paper into it containing five guineas.

This

This gentleman might with great propriety be called the cleanly lover, and, I believe, there is scarce a woman in England that would be displeased at having her apartments well cleaned out, and receiving five guineas for the trouble of overlooking the operator. Nay, he did not only give inconceivable pleasure by his easy manner of making love, but even my maid also partook of the amusement by its saving her so much trouble, and she always received a genteel compliment for her preparing the necessary apparatus.

It is true this kind of gallants are very scarce, and I must acknowledge I never met but with this one, in the whole course of my Thaisian practice: if they were as numerous and as frequently met with, as the variety of other kind of culls, with whom this metropolis abounds, a wh—e's life would absolutely be too happy; nay, it is not clear to me, that many women of more fashion than virtue might not take up the business, without having served a regular apprenticeship, to the great detriment of the fair trader. Hawkers and pedlars in the commerce of love might be as detrimental to the community, as they are in the more regular vents of merchandize;

smuggling should be discountenanced in every branch of traffic, and no goods should be offered to public sale that have not been duly entered. Monopolies of lovers are as dangerous as those of horned cattle, and every woman of the town should pique herself upon being an honest carcase butcher.

Whilst I was ruminating in this manner, I was disturbed by a noise over-head, and upon listening on the stair-head, I heard Mr. Williams calling lustily for help: I immediately ran up stairs, and opening the door, saw a dirty ill-looking man who had got him down, and was pommelling him without mercy; I immediately flew to his relief, and taking up a chair, knocked down the devil, who had already given his author a black eye and a bloody nose.

It seems this itinerant typographist had brought Mr. Williams a proof from one of the magazine-mongers, and that he had been so indolent as to let it lie upon his table for two days, without having corrected it, when returning upon the last day of the month, he was so provoked at the bard's negligence, that he gave him very abusive language, which the other retorting, a battle ensued, when the devil being a much better

better bruiser than the author, the poet was most infernally mauled.

By my assistance, however, victory now began to hover on the side of the Muses; and if the devil had not flown out of the room with more rapidity than he could have made his way upon the swiftest pegasus, he might, in all likelihood, have paid very dear for his temerity.

C H A P. XVI.

Some reasons why Maria does not marry Mr. Williams. Is introduced by captain H. to Mrs. G. upon a very particular occasion; the harangue she makes thereupon. Maria's reflections, and the first groundwork of an acquaintance.

IT should seem that I was very deeply interested in Mr. Williams's welfare, to engage upon his account, with so very doughty an antagonist: But as I have made no secret of our connection, any more than the common accident that befell us, through the channel of my public acquaintance, I considered it but a small reparation to take every opportunity of doing a kind office.

office to him ; and upon this principle, not only my person, but even my purse was at his service, for he had but too much reason to complain, “ Que le metier d'un auteur, “ est un vilain metier.” Now, if it is considered, that I took upon myself to make up the deficiency of the Muse's subsidy, which was frequently pretty considerable, it may be imagined that these drawbacks upon my commerce, greatly reduced my current stock in trade.

I mean this as some apology for leaving off so dangerous and detestable a calling, which to a woman of any sensibility must be loathing and detestable.

Our connexions were so well known in the house, that by this time I was as often called Mrs. Williams as miss Brown, and to own the truth, the former was a name that pleased my ear much better than the latter. If it should be questioned, then, whether Mr. Williams ever offered me his hand and name in an honourable way, and if he did, why I should refuse them : to these questions I shall answer, that though by fate allotted to pursue a life of prostitution, it was very far from being eligible or agreeable to me, and that I should have preferred being *really* Mrs. Williams with
only

only one hundred a year certain, to being the mistress of the greatest monarch in the world, with the most unlimited power and influence : but as our fortunes were at present situated, and as without submitting to the promiscuous embraces of the men, I could not command so many shillings a year certain, neither my conscience nor a certain remnant of delicacy in sentiment, would permit me to lay so premeditated a plan for adultery, and so certainly planting the horns of cuckoldom upon my husband's brows.

These then being my sentiments upon so important a subject, I imagine they will plead my excuse for not accepting Mr. Williams's hand, or attempting to transfer a heart that could not remain unsullied, unpolluted.

Whilst things were thus situated, I formed an acquaintance with the celebrated Mrs. G—by, by the greatest accident imaginable. Captain H. who was her intimate acquaintance, and performed many good offices for her as well as himself, called upon me one afternoon, and invited me to a dinner which was to be given next day at a tavern in Bloomsbury, upon occasion, as he represented it, of a lady of his acquaintance

tance

tance having got the better of all the reformers of manners put together. As I knew captain H. was a man of too much taste, to invite me to any regale that was not elegant, I readily accepted of the proposal.

We found Mrs. G—by was the female president, and did the honours of the table, to a very sumptuous repast, consisting of many courses, which were succeeded by a most curious desert. After dinner, she informed me of the cause of this entertainment, which she said was, “ Neither more
 “ nor less than the triumph of basket-mak-
 “ ing over pederasty. She said, that some
 “ informers, who very improperly stile
 “ themselves reformers, had given notice
 “ to a worthy j—e, that she kept a house
 “ of ill fame; and that she had been sum-
 “ moned to attend the said magistrate, in
 “ order to disprove the assertion, which she
 “ said she performed soon; and as she put
 “ her accusers upon the proof of what they
 “ had asserted, when it clearly appeared
 “ they had no manner of foundation for
 “ their allegation, as not one of them at-
 “ tempted to give evidence of his having
 “ himself made her house a brothel; for,
 “ indeed, added she, there was not one a-
 “ mongst

“ mongst them that seemed to have the
 “ heart to make a girl a present of one
 “ guinea, much less ten, which you know
 “ is the least, that is ever offered or taken
 “ at my house : when, continued she, I was
 “ asked, what was my support, I thought
 “ it necessary to throw down five thousand
 “ pounds of bank stock, which the j—es
 “ were of opinion was sufficient to support
 “ a single woman very decently.”

This account of Mrs. G—by’s adventure, though it might give me no very advantageous idea of her veracity, failed not to create in me a very high opinion of her opulence, and I was particularly complaisant in returning every civility she showed me, as I imagined it would be greatly to my advantage to cultivate such an acquaintance ; I accordingly accepted of her first invitation, and drank tea with her the next day, when she explained to me some mysteries in the course of her practice, to which I was before an entire stranger.

C H A P. XVII.

The mystery of pimping fully explained, together with some curious and interesting rules for a girl's conduct who proposes making the most of her person and qualifications; being the *ne plus ultra* of all that can be said upon the commerce of love.

MRS. G—by and I had a tête à-tête together at tea, and she appeared highly diverted with the account I gave her of my travels, and the behaviour of the women of pleasure in Paris. She found great fault with madam Laborde's œconomy of her household, and permitting her boarders to take such liberties: “ It is well, “ she added, that she lived in a remote “ quarter of the town; if such a riot as you “ mention had happened in my house, it “ would have ruined me for ever: the “ French women may talk what they will, “ and pique themselves upon their vivacity “ and wit, but they always want prudence. “ Can you point out to me any woman in “ Paris, that has carried on business so long “ as I have with reputation, and without a “ neighbour having the least reason for “ asserting

“ asserting that mine is a disorderly house ?
 “ Is there a woman in France that has
 “ made so much by trade as I have in so
 “ short a time ? The thing is, I have made
 “ it my particular study ; I know how to
 “ suit every man’s taste in England, from
 “ lord ——— down to sir — — : but then I
 “ have such resources as no woman would
 “ ever have thought of but myself ; did
 “ any one before me ever imagine to
 “ set up register offices upon her own ac-
 “ count ? I have no less than four now
 “ in town entirely at my devotion : they
 “ stand me in very little, besides the fools
 “ pence, which amply pay the clerks : it
 “ is true, they cost me a trifle at first for
 “ desks, chairs, pens, ink, and such like
 “ trifles ; but they have reimbursed them-
 “ selves by their returns : look ye, said she,
 “ this is my way, whenever an innocent,
 “ fresh girl applies for a place, she is direc-
 “ ted to one of my ladies, who, if she finds
 “ her agreeable, and thinks she will do,
 “ hires her for a quarter, and a month’s
 “ warning ; she then lays traps for her
 “ with some person who appears in the ca-
 “ pacity of an apprentice, who promises
 “ her marriage and the like ; if she is not
 “ caught in this manner, a fine gown, a
 “ pair

“ pair of silver buckles, and even some-
 “ times a watch, are brought into play ;
 “ there are few girls that can withstand
 “ these temptations ; but if she should still
 “ hold out, and nothing but downright
 “ stratagem will prevail, the gentleman
 “ who has engaged for her, calls upon her
 “ mistress when she is out, and the maid
 “ is employed in making her bed, a purse of
 “ money, a promise of marriage from him,
 “ or downright force must now prevail.
 “ If she still rides resty, and offers to leave
 “ her mistress, she is then threatened with
 “ being forced to pay a month’s wages ;
 “ and this last argument has often prevail-
 “ ed, when all the rest have been ineffec-
 “ tually tried. But upon the whole, in the
 “ course of my trade there have been but
 “ three escaped without doing business,
 “ two of them had turned their brains with
 “ reading Pamela and the whole Duty
 “ of Woman ; and the last was so formed
 “ by nature that she was never intended
 “ to be made a woman of. But I have
 “ taken care to remove all such bad books
 “ out of their way, and, in their stead, I ge-
 “ nerally leave the Memoirs of a Woman
 “ of Pleasure with cuts ; or such lascivious
 “ prints for those who cannot read, as may
 “ tend

“ tend to inflame their passions. When they
 “ are once broke in, I fail not to give them
 “ the best instructions for their future con-
 “ duct : these are the general rules I incul-
 “ cate into them. Every woman that is de-
 “ sirous of making her way into the world
 “ by her person, should imitate the trades-
 “ man, and have no other object in view
 “ but interest and gain. Her heart should
 “ always be inaccessible to any real passion :
 “ it is only necessary that she should seem
 “ to be enamoured with the man she pro-
 “ poses making her property, and to ex-
 “ cite a real flame in her admirers. That
 “ it should be an invariable rule to give
 “ the preference to the best paymaster,
 “ without attending to rank or quality, as
 “ it frequently happens that a rich Jew
 “ merchant, or a city plumb, will come
 “ down much handsomer than a peer of
 “ the realm, who frequently thinks his title
 “ is a sufficient recompence for the enjoy-
 “ ment of every fine woman he chuses :
 “ but this is not the case with all ; there
 “ are very good culls amongst the quality.
 “ I should be extremely sorry to say other-
 “ wise, for the reputation of my house en-
 “ tirely depends upon them ; but then they
 “ are mostly married men, or have such at-
 “ tachments

" attachments as make it necessary that their
 " common amours should remain a pro-
 " found secret, and, in this case, they are
 " obliged to pay generously for hush-
 " money. As to the flighty young fellows,
 " and handsome men, who think their per-
 " sons and appearance entitle them to eve-
 " ry woman they see, they should be care-
 " fully avoided, as there is nothing to be
 " got by them, except sometimes a disa-
 " greeable and expensive connexion that
 " is not easily got rid of; not that it can
 " be expected a woman can be always pro-
 " stituting herself, without having some
 " desires which must be gratified; but then
 " she should take care to indulge her sen-
 " sual passions with such persons, who by
 " their situation in life, cannot pretend to
 " lay any claim to her person any further
 " than she may judge it prudent to gratify
 " them. There are two rocks upon which
 " most girls split, and which are still worse
 " than even a particular man they are fond
 " of; they either drink or ruin themselves
 " by their extravagance: a girl that is not
 " sober and has not œconomy, will never
 " be worth a groat, if she was to follow
 " business to the day of judgment. She
 " should, therefore, instead of thinking of
 " nothing

“ nothing but squandering her money in
 “ trinkets, baubles, and dress, lay it care-
 “ fully up, and when she has saved a sum,
 “ put it out to the best advantage either in
 “ the funds, or upon some mortgage, and
 “ take particular care that she has good se-
 “ curity ; and, to this end, she should en-
 “ deavour to find out an honest lawyer, if
 “ such a thing is possible ; and perhaps,
 “ this is the only man that she should in-
 “ dulse gratis, as he has it in his power to
 “ make her returns another way than by
 “ money. She should, in the course of her
 “ company, carefully avoid foreigners, at
 “ least such as are not known to be in any
 “ public character, as few foreigners come
 “ here who are not of a known quality,
 “ that are any other than sharpers, valet
 “ de chambres, language masters, and hair
 “ dressers. If an accident should happen
 “ with respect to her health, she should
 “ carefully avoid quacks and pretended
 “ nostrums, and immediately apply upon
 “ the first discovery of the injury to an
 “ able surgeon, religiously follow his pre-
 “ scriptions, and avoid all company till her
 “ health is completely restored : this will
 “ not only redound to her credit amongst
 “ the men, as nothing destroys a woman’s
 “ reputation

“reputation so much as communicating
 “any disorder ; but it will also preserve her
 “constitution, and, of course, her beauty.
 “As to children, it were needless to say
 “any thing upon that head, as it cannot be
 “supposed that a girl who goes into promif-
 “cuous company, runs any great risk of
 “being pregnant ; so that we must suppose
 “her to be in keeping when she becomes
 “a mother, and, in this case, all that is
 “necessary to be observed upon this head,
 “is that during her pregnancy she should
 “be very careful of her health, in avoid-
 “ing colds and the like, and that when she
 “is brought to bed, she should never once
 “think of suckling the child herself, as
 “there is nothing more pernicious to health
 “and beauty. And now that we have sup-
 “posed her in good keeping, she should
 “attentively study her lover’s temper, in-
 “clinations, and dispositions, so that she
 “may form her own upon his pattern, and
 “seem to see, speak, and feel, only through
 “his organs : such a conduct is sure to rivet
 “a man’s affections, and it may reasonably
 “be supposed that when a man is once
 “completely attached, he will not only al-
 “low her handsomely during his life, but
 “make ample provision for her at his death.”

“ When

When Mrs. G—by had finished these curious instructions, I could not help highly applauding her extensive judgment and great insight into human nature; and we parted perfectly satisfied with each other's conversation.

I had reason very soon after to be convinced of the justness of Mrs. G—by's remark concerning foreigners; for though her observations and advice had made the greatest impressions on me, I thought at the same time I erred, that I had all the evidences of rectitude for my conduct. But as this adventure was of a very uncommon nature, and as it would swell this chapter beyond its proper bounds, I shall here terminate it, that the reader, if he has already had a sufficient share of my adventures for the present, may lay by this volume, till such time as he or she chuses to enter upon chapter eighteen.

C H A P. XVIII.

An adventure at Vauxhall, with a foreigner of imaginary distinction ; his behaviour ; the mistake he commits at his departure ; a very curious epistle from him by way of apology for a sum of money, and other sterling indulgences.

I Made an acquaintance one evening at Vauxhall, which I imagined would have turned out greatly to my advantage. A foreigner dressed in an elegant suit of clothes, green and gold, accosted me whilst the cascade was playing, and seemed highly delighted to find I could answer him in a language that he spoke: he prevailed upon me to eat a bit of supper with him, which was ordered in a very elegant manner, consisting of the best of every thing the garden could afford ; upon which we regaled very harmoniously to the melody of French horns. The person who accompanied him in the capacity of an interpreter, called him his excellency, and I had no reason to doubt but he was a foreign ambassador. About two in the morning, he told his attendant to go and see if his servants were ready, and during his absence the

the bill was brought. He seemed somewhat angry that the interpreter waited so long, saying he was his purse-bearer, and he could not defray the bill till his return : imagining this would furnish me with an opportunity of displaying the weight of my purse, I pulled it out, and begged his excellency would make use of it. This he at first very earnestly refused, but by repeated intreaty, he was, at length, prevailed upon to pay the reckoning, which amounted to upwards of five guineas.

He still appeared under great consternation that his interpreter should wait so long, and after sojourning almost an hour, he consented to take part of my coach to town. He was too polite not to wait upon me home, and I was too civil not to compliment him with a night's lodging.

After breakfast he made me some very pretty compliments upon my person and behaviour, and took his leave, without recollecting that he had still my purse in his pocket. In the course of his conversation he threw out some hints that he had a large sum to receive that day, and I doubted not but I should have manifold interest for my loan, upon his excellency's return ; but what was my surprize, when instead of having a

visit from him, according to appointment,
I received the following very extraordinary
billet.

Des Champs Elysées près de Vauxhall.

Ma chère Dame,

Je me croirois l'homme le plus impoli du monde, si je manquois de parole à une personne de vôtre mérite ; croiéz, non ange, que j'ai essuié une mortification des plus vives de n'avoir pas pû procurer des billets de Banque que vous avés si bien mérités ; mais j'ai eu le malheur de trouver que ç'étoit un jour de fêtes pour la banque, et on a voulu nous enfaire un jour de jeunes, car en verité je n'ai pas pu procurer aucun argent ; mais l'ame noble trouve toujours des ressources en soy même, et voyant que l'affaire des billets ne pouvoit pas se faire aujourd'hui, vous n'avés qu'à remplir le papier ci joint que je vous envoie, en qualité de carte blanche, pour stipuler vos propres termes, & tout ce que je vous dois.

J'ai l'honneur et le bonheur d'être, mon adorable,

*Vôtre tres humble et
trés obeissant serviteur,*

Le Marquis De Croc.

P. S. *Vous pouvez compter, ma chère fille, que le banque sera ouverte de main, si ce n'est pas un jour rouge, car dans ce cas là, il nous deviendra un jour bien noir, malgré la Carte blanche ci jointe. En attendant j'espere que vous ne m'avez pas rendu une Mappe monde pour ma carte blanche, our les parties qui sont colorées verte me blessent toujours les yeux; il faut avouer que j'ai un bon né encore pour sentir ces choses là. Adieu, ma princess, re-souvenés vous toujours que la geographie de l'amour c'est une villaine science.*

I shall attempt a translation of this very curious epistle, though I am apprehensive I shall not be able to do it justice in English.

My dear Madam,

I should think myself the most unpolite man in the world, if I failed of my word to a person of your merit. Believe me, my angel, I have undergone the most grievous mortification, by not having been able to procure the bank bills, which you so highly deserved; but I have the misfortune to find this is a festival at the bank, and so they have a mind to make us observe it as a strict fast, for in truth, I have not been

able to get any money. However, a noble soul always finds resources in itself, and since the bank business could not be transacted to-day, I have sent you the inclosed, in quality, of a *carte blanche*; where you will please to stipulate your own terms, and mark what I owe you.

I have the honour and happiness to be,
my adorable girl,

Your most obedient,
and very humble Servant,

Le Marquis De Croc.

P. S. You may depend upon it, my dear girl, that the bank will be opened to-morrow if it is not a red day; in that case it will turn out a black one to us, notwithstanding the *carte blanche* annexed. In the interim, I hope you have not given me a *mappe-monde* for my *carte blanche*, for those parts of it that are coloured *Green* always shock my sight. It must be owned, that I have a good nose as yet for smelling out these things. Adieu, my princess; remember, I beseech you, that the *Geography of love* is a nasty science.

I endeavoured to make enquiry after my imaginary foreign ambassador, and after much trouble and fatigue, I learnt that he
was

was a German sharper, and had quitted his lodgings that very day with his supposed interpreter, in order to embark for Holland.

C H A P. XIX.

Gains some intelligence concerning this foreigner. The affecting story of the countess de —, with whom Maria makes acquaintance.

AN acquaintance I soon after made with a certain female foreigner, who took upon herself the title of the countess, with what right I shall not pretend to determine, gave me some insight into this stranger's character. She said, he was a noted sharper; that he had personated an English nobleman at Lisbon, and had taken in a banker in that capacity, for a very considerable sum; that he made his escape from Portugal, and had robbed a convent at Toledo of all the sacerdotal plate, after being admitted by the hospitality of the friars, who extend their beneficence to all distressed strangers; that he had narrowly escaped the gallies in France for forging a bill of exchange; and that he had for some

months taken upon himself the title of a foreign minister in London, by which means he had imposed upon many tradesmen, to a very considerable amount.

This intelligent female, who appeared to be so thoroughly acquainted with the characters of others, kindled in me an earnest curiosity to be somewhat acquainted with her own story. After some sollicitation, and, after having recited the greatest part of my adventures, I prevailed upon her to give a short sketch of hers, in nearly the following words.

“ The place of my nativity I never yet
 “ could ascertain, for my mother dying
 “ when I was very young, and my father
 “ being banished on account of some cu-
 “ rious essays he made for the improve-
 “ ment of the Portuguese coin, all I can
 “ assure you upon this head, is, that my
 “ first recollection found me at Lisbon in a
 “ very elegant house, with servants to wait
 “ upon me, and every appearance of gran-
 “ deur and nobility. But upon my father’s
 “ departure, the scene was soon greatly
 “ changed, and I was presently reduced to
 “ a state of servitude. I was taken by a
 “ lady, who brought me up, and gave me
 “ such instructions as she thought would
 “ be

“ be suitable to the part I was to act in life;
 “ without ever mentioning to me any thing
 “ concerning my parents, or my native
 “ country.

“ At the age of fourteen, I found myself
 “ a very agreeable girl, and every one in
 “ the house confirmed me in the opinion:
 “ but none so much as a young fellow, who
 “ was about seventeen, and who waited
 “ upon my benefactress’s husband in the
 “ capacity of a valet de chambre. He was
 “ the first of the male sex, that I had ever
 “ considered as any way differing from our-
 “ selves in person and appearance. I had
 “ observed his beard, which he constantly
 “ shaved every day, and was from thence
 “ led to conjecture, that there must be some
 “ difference between men and women, be-
 “ sides their dress; and my curiosity was
 “ never completely satisfied upon this score,
 “ till such time as he manifestly convinced
 “ me of the distinction. Our correspon-
 “ dence continued for some time, without
 “ any one in the house forming the least
 “ conjecture of our intimacy, till fate and
 “ nature imposed upon me the lot of a
 “ mother. I acquainted him with the dis-
 “ covery I had early made. He was struck
 “ with such a terror that he nearly swoon-

“ ed. I had never till now ruminated up-
 “ on the precipice we were hanging over ;
 “ but he soon opened my eyes, and dis-
 “ played all my danger in its most glaring
 “ colours. He pointed out to me the only
 “ means of escaping the terrors of the
 “ clergy, and all their dreadful chastise-
 “ ments. Says he, there is now lying at
 “ anchor in the Tagus, a Tuscan ship,
 “ which sails in two days for the island of
 “ Sardinia ; we must pack up all our clothes,
 “ and bribe the master to take us on board.
 “ I acquainted him with the impracticabili-
 “ ty of my making such a voyage ; the scan-
 “ tinefs of my wardrobe, and the emptiness
 “ of my purse. He told me to give my-
 “ self no concern upon those heads : that
 “ he should treat with the captain, and
 “ that I had nothing to do but get myself
 “ ready by the time appointed. Unex-
 “ periened as I was in the commerce of
 “ the world, I foresaw much risque and
 “ danger in such a project ; but all my
 “ prudence and reasoning were stifled, when
 “ I reflected upon the fatal situation I should
 “ be left in at Lisbon, after his departure :
 “ so that finding him fully bent upon the
 “ voyage, I resolved to accompany him,
 “ however great the peril.

“ We

“ We accordingly embarked without
 “ discovery being made, and got out of the
 “ Tagus with a fair wind for the Streights :
 “ we soon passed Gibraltar, and arrived in
 “ the Mediterranean ; but we had scarce
 “ sailed four and twenty hours before we
 “ were attacked by a Turkish corsair, and
 “ after a faint resistance on our parts, were
 “ taken and carried into Smyrna. My
 “ husband, for such I looked upon him,
 “ was cast into a dungeon ; but the captain
 “ did not treat me with so much severity,
 “ though I would willingly have shared his
 “ fate for the sake of his company. I was
 “ carried to Constantinople, and was placed
 “ under the guard of two black eunuchs.
 “ After being dressed in the Turkish habit,
 “ I was introduced to the Grand Seignior,
 “ and the splendor and magnificence of his
 “ court so far dazzled me, that I readily ac-
 “ quiesced to the gratification of his carnal
 “ passions.

“ I now lived in all the Asiatic luxury
 “ of an emperor’s mistress ; yet happiness
 “ was a stranger to my breast ; I lamented
 “ the loss of my liberty, but more the loss
 “ of my husband ; in vain were sumptuous
 “ banquets prepared for me ; in vain were
 “ art and nature exhausted to gratify my
 “ senses ;

“ senses; they could not administer that
 “ balm of life, content.

“ Whilst I was ruminating one evening
 “ upon my wretched elevated lot, my door
 “ opened; and to my sight appeared one
 “ of my aged negro eunuchs. But scarce
 “ had I cast my eye a second time upon
 “ him before I perceived a white hand seize
 “ on mine, and heard a voice that was
 “ dearer to me than life. In a word, my
 “ husband had escaped from prison, travel-
 “ led to Constantinople, and by stratagem,
 “ contrived to represent one of the black
 “ eunuchs, and gain admittance to my a-
 “ partment. I caught him in my arms,
 “ and could for ever have held him to my
 “ breast; but time was too precious to be
 “ lost even in bliss: we retired with preci-
 “ pitation, gained the frontiers of the city,
 “ and having by long and tedious travel-
 “ ling on foot, reached Scanderoon, we ar-
 “ rived just in time to embark on board
 “ a French ship that was bound to Mar-
 “ seilles.

“ Upon our debarkation at that port, I
 “ was taken in labour, and was delivered
 “ at an inn of a fine boy. We remained
 “ here some weeks, and were preparing to
 “ set forward, resolving to see the capital
 “ of

“ of France. We had occasion, as may
 “ be supposed, for money, by this time;
 “ the jewels I had brought with me from
 “ the seraglio had hitherto been our sup-
 “ port; but we had been obliged to dis-
 “ pose of many of them under their value.
 “ A Venetian Jew, who was a traveller at the
 “ inn, was introduced to us as a proper per-
 “ son to purchase any effects that we might
 “ have occasion to dispose of, and who
 “ would give us the utmost value for them.
 “ A contract was accordingly entered into,
 “ and we were to receive the next day a
 “ thousand pistoles for two diamonds of
 “ uncommon size.

“ My husband had been prevailed upon
 “ to take an airing with the merchant a
 “ few miles from the city: I waited with
 “ great impatience for their return, till at
 “ length sleep overcame even my sollici-
 “ tude; soon after the door opened, and I
 “ perceived a person, in the habit of my
 “ husband come to my bed-side: being
 “ much inclined to repose, I examined no
 “ farther; the door was fastened, the light
 “ was extinguished, and my husband, as I
 “ supposed, came to rest. He presently,
 “ however, interrupted me with such un-
 “ common warmth of fondness, that I be-
 “ gan

“ gan to think the champaign of France
 “ would renovate his youth, and repair
 “ that health which had been so greatly im-
 “ paired by captivity and misfortune.

“ He rose very early, and retired whilst
 “ I was still asleep; and was only awaked
 “ to be informed that my husband had been
 “ murdered the night before at some dis-
 “ tance from the city by the Jew merchant,
 “ who had returned in his dress, and per-
 “ sonated him. Messengers were dispatch-
 “ ed on every side, whilst I was left with
 “ sorrow and despair, to lament the loss of
 “ him who had escaped so many perils, to
 “ fall a victim to the hand of a treacherous
 “ Levite!

C H A P. XX.

Continuation of the narrative of the Countess De —.

“ **T**HE barbarous son of Israel, I found,
 “ had not only robbed me of my
 “ husband, and polluted his bed under his
 “ resemblance, but had also robbed me of
 “ those very jewels, for which he had a-
 “ greed to pay me the thousand pistoles.
 “ He was overtaken a few leagues from the
 “ city, and being brought back, was tried
 “ and condemned to be broke alive upon
 “ the wheel. After I had assisted as a very
 “ necessary

“ necessary witness upon his trial; having
 “ recovered my jewels, I set forward to
 “ Paris, not being able to remain any
 “ longer at Marseilles, which had been such
 “ a scene of slaughter, and was going to be
 “ still more so.

“ Nothing remarkable happened to me
 “ upon my journey. Upon my arrival at
 “ the capital, I soon made many acquaint-
 “ ance, who endeavoured to dissipate my
 “ melancholy by all the arts and attentions
 “ of which the French are complete mas-
 “ ters. I shall not dwell upon the beauties
 “ or magnificence of Paris, as you have
 “ been an eye-witness to them, but shall
 “ jump to an adventure, which happened
 “ to me when I was one night at the opera.
 “ I had been escorted thither by a young
 “ musketeer, who was reckoned one of the
 “ handsomest men in all France, and as
 “ such, he thought, he was intitled to do
 “ or say any thing. Whilst madam *Fa-*
 “ *varre* was singing a favourite air, he be-
 “ gan to hum an Italian song, so loud, that
 “ he interrupted a gentleman, who sat next
 “ him, and prevented his hearing the per-
 “ formance: the gentleman could not help
 “ expressing his dislike to such interruption,
 “ and saying, he wished he could espy an
 “ empty seat, that he might hear the opera
 out.

“out. The young musketeer took this in
 “great dudgeon, and asked him, whether
 “he was a watch-maker or a jeweller? to
 “which the gentleman replied, he would
 “give him an answer if he chose to follow
 “him. I perceived the drift of this retreat,
 “and interposed my authority, telling the
 “musketeer, that if he advanced a step, he
 “forfeited my esteem for ever, and that I
 “would never take notice of him again ;
 “he was too polite not to listen to my re-
 “monstrance, and, at the same time, asked
 “me what I would have him do. I told
 “him, if he and the gentleman would refer
 “the decision of the affair to me, I would
 “give a very equitable determination : the
 “gentleman, with much good sense,
 “agreed, and the musketeer, who relied
 “upon my friendship for a judgment in his
 “favour, also assented.” “Why then, sir,
 “said I to the musketeer, as you are the of-
 “fender, you must ask the gentleman’s
 “pardon, and let him hear the piece out,
 “uninterrupted.” He consented, and the
 “gentleman and he became very good
 “friends. This affair did not however
 “end here : for the musketeer having in-
 “troduced this gentleman into my com-
 “pany, he became so enamoured with me,
 “that

“ that he in a short time offered me his
 “ hand. He was a man of very good fa-
 “ mily, but being of the younger branch,
 “ he enjoyed but a small patrimonial estate.
 “ This was the count de ——— from whom
 “ I take my title, and no one can lay claim
 “ to a coronet upon better pretensions.

“ We lived happily together for some
 “ years, when having commanded in the
 “ French army in Germany, he paid the
 “ great debt of nature at Minden amongst
 “ many brave men, for their general’s te-
 “ merity.

“ A variety of fortune now succeeded to
 “ me; I was compelled to submit to such
 “ terms as the men pleased to impose; but
 “ even this scarce afforded a comfortable
 “ subsistence, and I was, at length, obliged
 “ to leave Paris, to avoid the horrors of a
 “ jail, with which my creditors threatened
 “ me. I travelled through Flanders into
 “ Holland, and remained some time at the
 “ Hague, and at Amsterdam: but I could
 “ not do any thing at either of those places,
 “ which promised an easy establishment;
 “ so that I at length came over into Eng-
 “ land, where I have now been about eigh-
 “ teen months, and in the course of this
 “ time, I have found means by my good
 “ offices

“ offices to foreign ministers and other tra-
 “ vellers of distinction, to gain a decent
 “ subsistence ; and, I am in hopes, by œco-
 “ nomy and prudence, to reap the advan-
 “ tages of my experience. And, my dear,
 “ continued she, now that I have been thus
 “ ingenuous with you, I hope you will give
 “ me all the assistance in your power ; that
 “ is to say, when you meet with a good
 “ man that will bleed freely, you will give
 “ the preference to my house before any
 “ other ; and, on my part, I promise you
 “ when any fall in my way, that I think
 “ will be worth your while, you may de-
 “ pend upon it, that I shall not be forgetful
 “ of you.”

C H A P. XXI.

Makes an acquaintance with a generous
 foreigner ; his behaviour. A breakfast
 adventure which Maria pays for very
 dearly.

WHILST I was one night paying a
 visit to the countess, a sedan chair
 stopped at the door, and a footman, in an
 elegant livery, gave the tatoo of nobility,
 when a foreigner entered, and was intro-
 duced.

duced. He behaved with great politeness and civility, sent for an elegant supper from the tavern, and after my hostess was retired, began to make love to me with great fervency. The countess had informed me before the arrival of this stranger, that she should have a visit that evening from a foreigner of distinction, and that she should not fail to give me an opportunity of making a conquest of him, as he was fond of variety, and she could not expect he would again compliment her with his company all night; that I should act prudently, as he was as generous as a prince, and as rich as a Jew; but that it would be necessary for me to behave with some sort of reserve, as he had declared to her, that the forwardness of the English women who went into company gave him great disgust.

I accordingly received all his compliments with a coyness that ill became the reputation of the house I was in; the more backward I appeared to his solicitations, the more earnestly he repeated them; till, after a full hour's refusal, I thought it was time to accept his proposals, upon throwing his purse, which contained twenty guineas, into my lap.

Such uncommon generosity I thought required

required more than usual attention on my part to give him all the satisfaction in my power for his present: especially as I was not without hopes that though the countess might not be possessed of charms sufficient to captivate him a second time, I was still mistress of such accomplishments and a sufficient share of youth to attract him once more to my arms. He rose extremely well pleased, and made me many encomiums upon my person and behaviour.

Whilst we were at breakfast, and were conversing upon a variety of different topics, he, at length, asked me, if I ever played at piquet; I answered sometimes, and that the countess was pleased to compliment me with playing pretty well. He said, he should be curious to see me play, and cards were at his request presently introduced.

I would fain have played for no more than sixpence; but he said, he could not give any sort of attention to the game, unless it was for at least a guinea: this assertion I did not much admire; but as I was very unwilling to give my generous lover the least reason to be displeased, I was easily prevailed upon to play for gold. The first
game

game I was thirty points before him, when he repiqued me : the next game was similar to the first.

All this while I could not discover any superiority of play on my antagonist's side ; but on the contrary, that he was entirely indebted to great cards for his success. After winning four or five games, he agreed to give me ten points : he still won ; he then gave me twenty ; I had no more chance yet than before ; in a word, he continued to increase the odds, till they came up to seventy, and I never once got the point. My surprise continued till I lost the twenty guineas he had presented me with, without yet suspecting any foul play ; however, I had curiosity enough to have him dogged home by a chairman, who brought me intelligence that my enamorado who had so generously paid me, and so genteelly fleeced me, was neither more nor less than the celebrated Doctor T—o, who made so much noise, and received such great applause in Covent-Garden.

C H A P. XXII.

An event that throws Maria into despair. Captain H's. tenderness and regard for her, which in some measure removes her melancholy; a thought or two upon ideal bliss.

SUCH good fortune as I last met with might be the ruin of a woman in a short time: Thanks to my stars, I did not often find lovers who were quite so generous. Indeed, I began to be more cautious how I went into promiscuous company for more reasons than one; having in the first place gleaned as much money together, as might, at any time, put me above want; in the next place I became very solicitous about my health; and thirdly, on account of an intimacy which I had for some time carried on with captain H. whose situation was so critical, that an accident of the sort would have been his ruin. I suppose after this, it may be needless to say, that he was in high keeping by an antiquated demi-rep of quality, who had the refreshment of the body more than the soul at heart.

An event, which at this period happened,

pened, greatly affected me, as I had painted to myself a small prospect of contentment at least, if not felicity; an unexpected blast clouded all my hopes, and distracted all my serenity. Just when methought I had scraped together a sufficiency to set me above the world, and make me easy with my dear Williams, in a way both legal and rational, he was attacked with a fever, which in a few days brought him to such a pass, that he was given over by the faculty: I attended him with unwearied diligence, till he gave up his last breath, and the grim inexorable tyrant tore him from my arms.

A dejection of spirits succeeded this unexpected shock; and though I endeavoured to hide my sorrow and its excess from the captain, they were but too conspicuous not to be discovered by the most careless observer. As captain H. could not pretend to any fidelity towards me on his part, so he did not exact it on mine; but though he had suspected an intimacy reigned between Mr. Williams and me, he had never been thoroughly convinced of it till now. If he might feel some slight satisfaction from the consideration of his rival being removed, he had at least the politeness and complaisance to dissemble a participation of my

my sorrow, and to take every opportunity of diverting it. For this purpose he took a lodging at Richmond, kept me a post-chaise, and profited of every convenient opportunity, to accompany me upon every party or jaunt. The most pungent grief may be in some measure alleviated by a variety of objects and a diversity of recreations : yet mine continued for a long time in its most formidable state ; and he began to be under real apprehensions that I should fall a victim to sorrow.

Lady M. who was the captain's generous benefactress, had a near relation come to visit her from Ireland ; and as she proposed making her cousin's stay in England as agreeable as possible, she proposed conducting her to all the public diversions which it afforded, and they had accordingly laid a plan for going to Bath, where they were to stay a month : now as the captain's visits to her ladyship were to be discontinued, during that time he had a vacation, which he proposed employing with me in a tour round England, being careful to avoid touching at Bath. We accordingly set out, and visited most of the capital towns and cities in the East and North of England, and contrived to return to the metropolis about

about the time of her ladyship's quitting Somersetshire.

This tour had in a great measure its desired effect; and the captain's generosity and regard began to work upon me much in his favour, as I considered him as a very agreeable companion, and was not without hopes that one day might unite us in a manner much more to my satisfaction: but this could not be effected till the death of lady M. as she was his principal support, and as the captain had always led a very gay life, and could never condescend to sequester himself in indigent obscurity; and as her ladyship's good health and chearful spirits no way bespoke an early departure from this world; so that all my hopes, in this respect, were very distant, if not ill-grounded. However, the fool's paradise was a contemplative elysium that frequently furnished me many agreeable hours of mental recreation, and I am still of opinion, it matters not what is the cause if the effect is produced; I was happy whilst I walked in imaginary felicity, and forgot my real sorrows by the gratification of ideal pleasures.

There, in the dear delirium, let me live,
Rather than know my wants, and grieve.

C H A P.

C H A P. XXIII.

An analysis of modern lovers, in the characters of some remarkable men of pleasure and business.

A Woman is no sooner known to be possessed of a little money, and to be above the world, but ugly or handsome, old or young, abandoned or virtuous, foolish or sensible, no matter which, she may reasonably be expected to have at least a dozen suitors. There is a set of men, who ambulate this metropolis, croud the public walks, disturb pious congregations, and interrupt the repose of families ; they call themselves gentlemen, for no other reason than that they have too much pride or too little industry to follow any calling : they starve genteelly with a sword and laced coat, and if they are not carried off in a duel, or a Covent-Garden fever, they for the most part, rot in a jail, or pay a penny to expose themselves in the London Gazette, in order to receive the benefit of an act of disgrace.

These are all, to a man, professed fortune-hunters : they no sooner get scent of a cast-off

a cast-off mistress with an annuity for life, or an amorous widow who has just buried her third husband, or a hoyden ready to run off with the coachman, for want of another object, than they immediately prepare their artillery, and unmask a battery in form. Their success, it is true, is very uncertain; otherwise we should see these gentlemen, who are seldom more than the butterflies of a season, instead of returning to their insignificant caterpillar state, shine forth repeated summers in all their desirable gaiety.

Belvil was upon the foremost rank of this class, of my worthy admirers: he wrote billet-doux with a pretty easy familiarity, that might have imposed upon most women for originals, who had never seen the Spectators, or read an English translation of Ovid's Art of Love: I answered him precisely in his own stile, and when he wrote me a plagiarized letter, I sent him back a transcript of the identical printed answer. This drove him to the utmost despair; he had not courage to attack me afterwards from his own brain, and deserted me, because I pursued him too closely; upon which occasion I wrote him a definitive

V O L. II. G letter,

letter, in which I introduced pretty pertinently,

“ In love, the victors from the vanquish'd fly,

“ They fly that wound, and they pursue that die.

But I contrasted the application, for he never rose afterwards; he fell a victim to the sharp arrow of ridicule, and gave up the ghost of a lover in the third month of his time, pregnant with the most promising hopes, of making me capitulate at discretion.

Brainless was an animal of a very different cast: so far from stealing from our best authors, he had never read them, and if he had, it was impossible he could have understood them: no, he was guiltless of such impositions; he never attempted to write any thing beyond a card, and which I was afterwards very well assured that he employed his laundress to transcribe for him, that the orthography might be the less imperfect. Brainless did not pique himself upon his learning, or endeavour to make an unnecessary display of any talents, but those that centered in dress. Though he was entirely ignorant of history or geography, no body wore a newer fashioned buckle:

buckle : and though he usually spoke nonsense, and generally bad English, no body's hair was more classical. In a word, all his discourse was centered in dress, and his knowledge of fashions was almost unfathomable. Notwithstanding his extraordinary genius this way, his taylor wanted to be paid, and was so very unreasonable as to arrest him, after giving him three years credit, as he was getting out of his chair, to pay me a morning visit.

Brainless thus dispatched, I was besieged in form by the heroic captain Bluster, who had been in twenty engagements, fourteen skirmishes, and six pitched battles : the captain fought, drank, and swore, as deep as any man in Christendom ; and he had almost bullied me into marrying him, when considering, that twenty pence a day, would be but a very slender additional inheritance, I resolved to get rid of myself, in order to get rid of the captain ; I retired for two months into Northamptonshire, and sequestered myself from the world, to avoid captain Bluster's persecuting addresses.

Retirement, the native clime of love, produced fresh admirers for me. A parson and a lawyer, at once, declared themselves

candidates for my affections. The parson, though he wore black, as Otway says, I believe was honest and sincere : he opened his mind to me in an easy, unaffected manner ; he told me, though he could not attempt to enumerate my charms, he should offer his friendship and esteem, which were all he could pretend to talk of at his time of life ; and if I could put up with a man of forty, he believed he should make me as good a husband. as a woman of sense would reasonably expect ; that to paint scenes of ideal happiness and visionary bliss in the marriage-state, was both romantic and childish : experience exploded such chimeras, and proved the honey-moon but of short, very short duration ; but that if common sense and some learning without pedantry, a sincere desire to be agreeable, founded upon genuine good nature, bid fair to make matrimony eligible, he might, perhaps, be no unworthy member of that institution.

I answered the doctor with as little ambiguity as he declared himself, saying, that I had no objection, either to his person, function, or sentiments ; but, on the contrary, thought him worthy of the esteem of
the

the most amiable woman alive ; and that if I had not been under a prior engagement, I should not have hesitated accepting of so agreeable a proposal. The doctor received this answer with a becoming modesty, thanking me for the good opinion I entertained of him. I could find, however, notwithstanding his religious character and disposition, that he was not a little disturbed with jealousy at the lawyer's paying me frequent visits ; he conceived him to be the powerful rival who had influenced me to reject his proposals, and upon his retiring, he said with some emphasis, after talking of him with no small degree of acrimony,

“ An honest man's the noblest work of God.”

I could not help being diverted at the parson's ill-grounded jealousy, and imagined that a conference between my lovers in my presence, would be not unentertaining. I accordingly brought them together at tea the very next afternoon. They at first fought very shy, and scarce an expression was interchanged by them ; but I soon brought them to a more communicative disposition, by reading some letters I had received from town, and entering upon the

topics of the times. The lawyer, who had come down during the vacation, was a stranger to the parson, as well as the neighbourhood; however, the doctor's curiosity had excited him to gain some intelligence concerning his character, which, I believe, he found to be none of the best, and particularly, that he was a bad paymaster. The doctor, at length, interrogated him concerning his profession, by saying, "I think, sir, you follow the law." The attorney, who was somewhat nettled at this abrupt and unexpected question, replied with a sneer, "No, sir, I make the law follow me." "Indeed, resumed the parson, I believe you are frequently pursued by the law and its followers too."

Though I did not approve of so much unprovoked severity in my religious lover, I could not, for the present, refrain joining with him in a laugh at the expence of the lawyer, who was so highly enraged as to give him an indirect challenge. I thought it was now proper to interpose, and I dismissed my two lovers, seemingly very well reconciled.

So

So much for suitors and addressees : it is high time for me to return to London, and captain H. who is extremely uneasy at my absence, and greatly importunes me in his last letter, to make my stay in the country as short as possible ; and having in my answer promised to acquiesce, the reader may now very naturally suppose me once more in the metropolis.

C H A P. XXIV.

Maria's reformation and its cause. The virtuous and religious plan of life she pursues, which is crowned with an happy union to an amiable man. Some account of her present family and pursuits. The end.

THE captain was to meet me one evening at the Asylum chapel, from whence we were to go in our post-chaise to Richmond, and pass the week. Little did I then imagine that the place of rendezvous for a criminal intrigue would prove the source of reformation from a desolate and sinful life. A sensible and pathetic discourse which I heard that night, was the cause of my conversion; the worthy and pious gentleman who preached, set forth in so striking and affecting a manner, the sin and danger of a profligate course, that I was seized with all the horrors of a reproachable conscience. It was then my eyes were for the first time opened, and I saw my licentious and abandoned conduct, in all its shocking and dread array; I was entirely lost to myself, and drowned in a flood

flood of tears, when the captain approached my seat, without my perceiving him. He took hold of my hand, and enquired what was the matter with me? but I was incapable of making him any answer. He gave me his smelling-bottle, and was performing all the kind offices of a lover who finds his mistress in affliction; but I remained insensible to all he did or said, and we are at length left in the chapel quite alone.

He handed me out, and was for putting me into the post chaise, which was in waiting; but I declined it, and notwithstanding he exhausted all the rhetoric that could be used in such a cause, I remained inexorable to intreaty, and returned over the bridge to my lodging all alone. From this time I discontinued associating with any of my former acquaintance; never went to any public place except church, and for upwards of a twelvemonth passed a life that was not unworthy of a christian.

Nothing gave me now any sort of anxiety, but the reflection, that what I subsisted upon were the wages of prostitution: in these sentiments I would willingly have embraced any opportunity of gaining a livelihood in a manner suitable to my present way of thinking; I should have been hap-

py to have disposed of all I was worth in the world in charity, if I could have had the least glimmering of hopes, to pass the remainder of my days without controul, and without dependence; but as I was not so enthusiastically bigotted as to forget my past misfortunes, or the terrible situation a woman is in, who is thus divested of the means of support, I did not pursue so very charitable a plan of reformation.

Accident soon after threw into my way a tradesman, who was sensible without severity, and religious without ostentation: who had philanthropy enough to overlook the weaknesses and failings of mankind, where they were not blended with premeditated crimes, and to esteem a repenting sinner as much as a constant devotee. His sentiments and mine were so very concordant, that an agreeable intimacy soon took place, and in the course of our conversations, I was frank enough to own the disagreeable part I had been obliged to act upon the theatre of life. This account which I gave of myself did not diminish his regard for me; he said, “ He was convinced of
 “ the thorny paths through which a pret-
 “ ty woman had to move, and the difficul-
 “ ty there was for her to avoid the many
 “ snares

“ snares that were constantly thrown out
 “ for her by the profligate and abandoned
 “ of the male sex, if she was not endued
 “ with more than human prudence ; but,
 “ continued he, I am convinced by your
 “ frankness in acknowledging your former
 “ errors, and your present sentiments, that
 “ you will never pursue the same track a-
 “ gain : and to convince you, that you have
 “ no way lessened yourself in my esteem
 “ by your sincerity ; and that I am firmly
 “ of opinion, that you are capable of mak-
 “ ing an honest and virtuous wife : if you
 “ will accept of my hand, here it is ; as to
 “ my heart, he added with a sigh, that you
 “ have been possessed of for some time.”

There was so much honest good nature
 and genuine sentiment in this declaration,
 which, at the same time, was very agree-
 able to me, that I did not long play the
 prudish part, but accepted of his proposal
 with as much cordiality as it was made.

And now, reader, that I have brought
 you once more to a virtuous, honest plan
 of life, which alone can administer that bal-
 my ease and satisfactory repose, which we
 should be all desirous of obtaining ; I shall
 leave you to contemplate these sheets, as I
 have at present other employment upon
 may

my hands than that of writing: these pages, having all but this chapter, been composed long before I entered into the holy and desirable state of matrimony; for I have now four children to look after, the youngest of whom is not a twelvemonth old. My eldest daughter reads and writes very well, and will, I hope, be an ornament to her sex, as she will, at least, have the advice of a mother to conduct her through this perilous world, who, to her cost, has evinced the rocks and shoals which a female navigator must be so careful to avoid; and if any of my fair readers should be so lucky as to gain prudence and discretion enough to escape perdition, by what they have learnt from these sheets, I shall think that the time I have employed in penning them, has not been thrown away.

F I N I S.



